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Simply put, the energy shortage we face is a lack of fuel such as oil, natural gas, and coal to run America's homes, factories, schools, and offices, and to keep the Nation's more than 112 million motor vehicles going.

How did we get into such an energy-short predicament? There is no simple answer.

One reason is that demand for energy has been increasing continually while our supply has not. With 6 percent of the world's population, we are consuming 33 percent of the world's energy. Furthermore, by 1990, our energy needs will be double those of 1973. Much of this increase in demand will be reflected in an increased demand for oil. Demand for oil has grown, in part, because there has been a shift away from coal to oil, and in part, because of the inability to obtain natural gas, another alternative to oil.

In the face of this increasing demand, however, our domestic petroleum industry has not been expanding. Relatively little exploration for new fossil fuels has been conducted in recent years. Fuel prices, traditionally kept at the lowest possible level, may have been held too low to provide producers with the economic incentive they felt they needed.

Rising energy demands also collided several years ago with the new public concern for the environment. This ecological awareness was appropriate and long overdue. However, concerns about the possible environmental consequences of development of new sources of energy have delayed expansion of the domestic energy supply.

As a result, oil imports have risen dramatically in order to meet growing demand, and much of the new import supply comes from the Middle East.

Meanwhile, other nations have not stood still. Energy consumption in the rest of the world is advancing even more rapidly than it is in the United States; in fact, more than half again as fast. While U.S. energy requirements may rise on the order of 4 percent a year in the 1970's, free-

world requirements outside the United States will probably grow at more than a 6 percent rate. Other nations will compete vigorously with the United States for available supplies of energy. A transition from a buyers' to sellers' market in energy, world-wide, seems a likely prospect for ensuing decades.

To conserve energy resources and avert an energy crisis, President Nixon has asked the nation to cut energy consumption 5 percent. The President has asked Federal agencies to do even better than that, reducing their energy consumption at least 7 percent.

In USDA, Secretary Butz reinforced this Presidential message by asking USDA agencies to develop formal conservation plans for the facilities under their control. He also listed specific actions that agencies and individual employees could take to reduce energy demands in the areas of lighting, motor vehicles, heating, air conditioning, and travel. Further actions for Federal agencies were recently listed by the new Federal Energy Office. (See page 2 for a list of the actions USDA has been asked to take.)

In fiscal year 1973, USDA employees in over 19,600 buildings nationwide used the equivalent of 11 trillion BTU's of energy in their work (as a frame of reference, figure that it takes approximately 10 million BTU's, or British thermal units, to heat and cool an average room for a year). That doesn't even count the energy they used traveling to and from work.

USDA's energy needs in the first quarter of fiscal '74 were projected at 3.2 trillion

BTU's. Actual use, however, was 16.7 percent less than this projection.

The Federal Government consumes almost 3 percent of the energy used in the United States. During July, August, and September 1973, the Government as a whole was able to reduce its energy consumption 20.8 percent compared to projected demand for the period. USDA's 16.7 percent savings placed it sixth among the top 10 Federal energy savers.

Part of the Department's 16.7 percent reduction in the first quarter of fiscal '74 was attributable to energy management programs. Motor vehicles use was down substantially, for example.

Agencies also contributed to the savings by cutting back activities which would not short program responsibilities. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, for example, canceled previously scheduled State conferences of county personnel to save energy. Such conservation efforts can be redoubled to keep USDA's energy consumption inching downward.

But part of the savings came from unpredictables like the weather. Warmer temperatures in the North and Northwest during the latter part of the quarter reduced anticipated heating needs and saved heating oil, coal, and gas. Wet fields in some areas kept farm machinery out of experimental fields and saved on diesel fuel. Will the unpredictable factors be favorable or unfavorable in the months ahead? We can only wait and see.

What are the benefits of reducing energy demand? For one, it could prevent the necessity of shutting industrial plants down or running reduced shifts because energy supplies were unavailable. Either of these things could mean unemployment. It could reduce our oil import needs. Energy conservation can produce environmental benefits. Companies could lower costs through energy savings, helping to hold down prices. Everyone—worker, consumer, environmentalist, businessman—will benefit from energy conservation. That is why all of us must get behind the effort to reduce our energy consumption—**NOW!** □

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at least 7 percent*

Person to Person

Energy conservation—everyone's talking about it, but just what are they doing about it?

Plenty! Some of the things that can be done are obvious, others take a little more brainstorming. We've gathered a few energy saving ideas for starters and present them to you here.

In its effort to cut Federal energy use by at least 7 percent, the government is encouraging Federal employees to submit suggestions on energy savings that could be adopted by their office or their agency. Your agency personnel office can tell you how to go about submitting suggestions through formal channels. And who knows? If your proposal results in substantial savings or solves a problem, it might earn you some cold cash!

If you're the type who prefers to do things informally, though, don't keep your ideas to yourself. Write to USDA (Office of Communication, Rm. 545-A, Washington, D.C. 20250) and tell us about your energy conservation ideas for the home or office. We'll pass the word on and share as many tips as possible with all our readers.

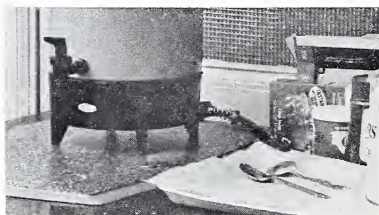


It may be the oldest carpool in Washington, D.C. That's what *Dayton Ward* (second from left) says of the pool that he and *James Owens* (second from right) started in 1947. That was back in the days when traffic was less congested and finding as much gasoline as you wanted to fuel the old buggy was no problem. But things have changed, and now Ward, Owens, *Don McGirk* (driver) *Ehizabeth Bowie* (right), *Myrtle O'Niel* (left), and *Charles Fitch* (third from left) are part of the carpooling vanguard.

As if the longevity of their carpool were not enough to set these six Rural Electrification Administration employees apart from your average, run-of-the-mill carpool, they also have a system that keeps their full car full. On days when one of the regular six is absent, a substitute rider fills in and keeps the sixth seat warm! The day this photo was taken, *Myrtle O'Niel* was subbing for regular rider *William Shifter*, another REA energy conservationist.



In the Forest Service's Visitor Information Service Office in Washington, D.C., they've cut back office lighting by 50 percent. Does it interfere with work? Not at all, says *Yvonne Ways* (above). As a matter of fact, the VIS folks claim they like the reduced lighting better because there's less glare.



A single coffee pot, radio, or other small appliance may not use a lot of electricity, but if every office has one, they begin to add up on the total electric bill. Is that pot really necessary? Could you "pool pots" with some other office? It's another way of achieving energy savings.

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Bonnie Kreitter, Editor

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Ag 840

**Food Stamp
Program Has
New Ethnic Flavor**

In some parts of the city they might be called gourmet shops—the imported foods that line their shelves are destined for the dining room tables of families wanting an occasional varied fare. But in thousands of neighborhoods where ethnic groups have congregated, they are simply corner stores, a place to buy the ingredients necessary for the family meal.

Until recently, food stamp program participants could not use food coupons to buy the imported foods stocked by these stores. Coffee, tea, cocoa, and bananas were the only exceptions.

For some people this restriction meant altering their dietary habits, spending money allocated for other necessities, or simply not participating in the food stamp program even though they were eligible.

New regulations, mandated by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, redefine eligible foods as any food or food product—domestic or imported—for human consumption. (Alcoholic beverages and tobacco are specifically excluded in the legislation.)

How will these new regulations affect the buying habits of food stamp participants?

Among those who work closely with various low-income ethnic groups, the general consensus is that the new regulations will not cause a sudden switch from domestic to imported foods. But they will make it easier for participants to buy the ingredients that give domestically produced staple items authentic ethnic flavor. The dollar value of these items will remain a small part of the monthly food bill.

Virginia Leong, a nutritionist with a San Francisco health clinic, provides some examples. A Chinese-American family can purchase black beans for 25 cents and use them in a variety of dishes for many weeks. A bottle of imported soy sauce can last for a couple of months. "The family," she explains, "is still going to purchase rice grown in Texas and vegetables from California."

Mrs. Leong expects that being able to

use food stamps to buy imported foods will help low-income families increase the palatability and quality of their meals.

But, she says, the most dramatic effect the new regulations will have on San Francisco's low-income Chinese-Americans is increased self respect.

Often when a low-income housewife went to the cashier with her selection of foods, she was told that certain items could not be purchased with food stamps because they were imported. For many, especially those that spoke little or no English, this was embarrassing—"a loss of face."

There are some 40 Chinese-American grocery stores in a 12-block area in San Francisco's Chinatown. To the tourists who flock to this small part of town, the cooked ducks hanging in shop windows, thousand year eggs packed in wooden boxes, and the varied produce of the countries of the Far East are a source of curiosity and amazement. Yet, the shops are not merely tourist attractions—but working, busy stores serving the needs of thousands of persons of Asian descent living in the Bay area.

According to Food and Nutrition Service food program specialists, lifting

of the import ban will encourage participation of these grocers in the food stamp program, and enable them to better serve the area's low-income residents.

Eddie Lee, food program specialist in the FNS San Francisco field office, estimates that the imported foods stocked by these stores average about 60 percent of their supplies with some stores stocked with 90 percent imported foods. Some grocers who handle primarily imported foods had continued to participate in the program because the sale of domestically produced rice made it an asset. However, many others chose not to apply for authorization.

Marshall Lowe, district manager of the FNS San Francisco district, points out that the new regulations will have a greater impact on certain area residents. While there are many who can get by on an American style diet, he says, there are others who "eat Chinese style three times a day." To many low-income Chinese-Americans especially the elderly and those who have maintained traditional cultural habits, it is important to follow ethnic dietary patterns.

Formerly officer-in-charge of the FNS office in Hawaii, Lowe adds that food



A grocer in San Francisco's Chinatown happily marks out the restrictions printed on the old Food Stamp Program official list. The new list, also printed in many languages, simply states: "All Foods For

Human Consumption (including seeds and plants for use in gardens to produce food for the personal consumption of the eligible household) Are Eligible For Purchase With Food Coupons."



The food coupon sign is now posted in many more stores which serve ethnic groups.

stamp program participants in Hawaii will benefit from the lifting of the ban more than those of Asian descent in other States because their dietary habits are more traditional. In Hawaii, an equivalent store to one of the mainland's giant supermarkets has bins full of Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese foods, which are used in preparing traditional family meals.

Since different ethnic groups have different dietary habits, lifting of the import ban will have a greater impact on some groups than others. For example, FNS food program specialists in California do not expect the new regulations to have a great impact on most Mexican-American communities. Except for a few preferred imported spices, most foods necessary for a traditional Mexican diet are produced in this country.

And, as is common in the sizable Mexican population of California's San Joaquin Valley, most Mexican-American families do not maintain a rigid ethnic diet. They eat Mexican style meals once or twice a week—but only on special occasions prepare complete ethnic meals using mostly imported foods.

The regulations will have a more significant impact on Navajo and other Indian tribes of the Southwest; Eskimo, Aleut and the Tlingits, Haidas and other Indian groups in Alaska. Because of lack of supplies of fresh meat and refrigeration, these groups need to purchase foods that are easily stored and used. Canned corned beef meets these requirements—and is a favorite dietary staple.

Few Americans would class canned corned beef with such exotic foods as Hoisin Sauce, pickled ginger, or dried

seaweed. However, although corned beef is a common food, available at most grocery stores under familiar brand names, there are no domestically-produced supplies of canned corned beef. The major source of canned corned beef is South America.

Until the new food stamp regulations went into effect, canned corned beef was on the list of ineligible imported foods.

Joanna Demmert, FNS food program specialist in Southeast Alaska, is a Tlingit. She explains that many Alaskans continue a preference for canned corned beef even after fresh meats and refrigeration are readily available. They like the flavor of the canned meat, and can use it to make hash, stews, oriental dishes, and a variety of other meals.

When the food stamp program was begun as a pilot program in 1962, its purpose was to utilize America's agricultural abundance while enabling low-income households to purchase more and better food. While participating families have been able to eat better for less under the import restrictions, many of America's various ethnic groups have utilized other monies to make their meals ethnically palatable. Lifting the import ban makes it easier for these food stamp participants to prepare the meals their families enjoy. □

News

Mandatory Fuel Allocation Regulations Are in Effect □ High priority in fuel allocation has been given agricultural production, food processing and

distribution.

"The mandatory fuel allocation regulations that went into effect Jan. 15 will help assure adequate supplies of fuels to produce, transport, and process the nation's food and fiber in 1974," according to **Nicholas H. Smith**, director of the USDA Energy Office. At the same time he stressed that those in agricultural production must economize to the greatest extent possible in fuel utilization.

Strictly speaking the program applies to the supplies allocated to wholesale distributors. They in turn are obligated to provide fuels to end users according to specifications in the fuel allocation regulations.

Farmers, as priority users, should get as much fuel through their fuel dealers as needed for farm operations. If spot shortages seriously curtail deliveries and operations, a farmer may file a request with his state energy official (not USDA offices) to have his dealer provided with enough fuel to meet his allotted needs. If a farmer is unable to obtain the services of a dealer, he should ask that he be assigned one.

Intensified Effort on Baling Wire □ When urging the Cost of Living Council to consider favorably an immediate price relief to manufacturers of baling wire, **Secretary Butz** also reported an intensified effort by the Department to monitor the baling wire situation.

"The baling wire situation is extremely tight. Our Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service personnel have been monitoring the situation closely for some time. At current controlled price levels, manufacturers' margins are so low that they are not producing," the Secretary said.

He added, "I am directing the Department of Agriculture to intensify its efforts to monitor the baling wire situation. USDA personnel will continue efforts to work with the steel industry, through the Commerce Department, to assure that every possible step is taken to produce the baling wire farmers will need in 1974."

Futures Trading Volume Sets Fifth Straight Record □ Total annual volume of 18.6 million contracts trades in 20 regulated commodities during 1973 was the fifth straight record high since 1969, reports the Commodity Exchange Authority. Value of these contracts was estimated at \$329.1 billion.

The record number of transactions represents a 30 percent increase over 1972. Value of contracts traded increased 82 percent over last year.

Fair Exchange □ Since Feb. 1, people in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom who develop or discover new plants which reproduce

through seeds may be granted certain rights to reproduce and sell these seeds in the United States.

The action was taken through amendment to the regulations under the Plant Variety Protection Act. The countries involved have similar laws and are expected to extend similar reproduction and sales right to U.S. breeders who develop new plants.

Plants reproduced by cuttings or other methods are covered by the Patent Act.

Federal-State-Citizen Efforts Trap Gypsy Moths □ Leaf-eating gypsy moths were found in 15 states outside the generally infested Northeast during 1973.

The gypsy moth trapping program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is conducted in cooperation with state agricultural agencies and National Campers and Hikers Association volunteers. Together, they placed a total of 63,354 traps nationwide to detect gypsy moth spread and population buildups in 1973.

APHIS scientists say the pest is spreading from New England to regions

***** savenergy *****

Testing soil before planting is especially important in 1974 to help beat the fertilizer problem and improve energy management.

Not only farm fields, but lawns, gardens, golf courses and all lands to be fertilized should be tested. Testing indicates the exact quantity of fertilizer elements necessary for a specific crop yield goal for 1974.

You may find the soil's nutrient level has changed, and this may reduce the rate needed for specific nutrients.

With your home garden in mind, Extension Service offers this guidance: In general, soil should be tested every three years. For intensive cropping systems requiring heavy fertilizer treatments, you may want to test the soil each year.

Best time to take a sample is when the soil is in good plowing condition, neither too wet nor too dry. Test early enough to allow time for getting the report and recommendations back from the laboratory before planting time—one to four weeks, generally.

Your County Extension agent can give you instructions on taking soil samples for testing and the address of available public and commercial soil testing laboratories.

***** savenergy *****

where its favorite hardwood trees are more prevalent. The insect presently infests most of New England and the Northeastern states.

In 1973, there were 1,828 male moths trapped in Michigan, indicating the central portion of that state is lightly infested.

Other states with reported male moth "finds" include 648 in Virginia; 488 in Maryland; 435 in Delaware; 40 in North Carolina; 8 in Ohio; 5 in Illinois; 3 in West Virginia; 2 each in Tennessee and Florida; and 1 each in California, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky and South Carolina.

Energy Situation Gives Natural Fibers an Edge Over Man-Made Fibers □ One effect of the energy shortfall in 1974 clearly will be to give the edge to cotton and other natural fibers over man-made fibers, according to Secretary of Agriculture *Earl L. Butz*.

He pointed out that production costs for both natural and man-made fibers have been going higher and producers of both kinds of fiber know they have to cut costs.

Since man-made fibers are derived primarily from natural gas, these fibers probably are going to be in for a period of higher costs.

The demand for cotton will benefit from any decision to cut back or limit man-made fiber supplies, and the makers of synthetics have already announced plans to cut back polyester production.

School Lunch, Breakfast Payments □ The first of what will be twice-yearly adjustments has been made in the payment rates to state educational agencies to assist schools taking part in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs.

Food and Nutrition Service announced the national average payment was increased a half cent from 10 to 10.50 cents for each lunch served to participating children, from 8 to 8.50 cents for each breakfast served to eligible children. Increases also were made in the additional payments to provide these meals to needy children.

The new law provides that the payment rates of school lunches and breakfasts are to be adjusted twice each year, in line with the changes in the "food away from home" series of the Consumer Price Index. This first adjustment reflects the changes in the period September through November 1973.

People

Secretary's Representatives □ Several appointments of representatives of Secretary Butz on Federal

Regional Councils have been announced. The representatives will work with state and local government officials and serve as spokesmen for USDA.

Douglas A. Craig, area director for state and private forestry of the Forest Service in Atlanta, heads region 4, serving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

William E. Galbraith, USDA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs' regional representative in Kansas City, heads region 7 in Kansas City. It covers Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

Jack R. Grev of the Agricultural Research Service office in Washington, goes to Philadelphia as chief of region 3. It's made up of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Alan Church Freeman, an equal opportunity specialist with the Social Security Administration, is the Secretary's representative in region 1 at Boston. States included in the region are Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Vern F. Highley, who has been administrative assistant to the Secretary, heads region 9 in San Francisco, covering California, Hawaii, Arizona, and Nevada.

Francis B. Hyatt of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is head of region 2, New York. Included in the region are New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Jose M. Villarreal, regional representative for USDA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in Dallas, heads region 6 in Dallas, which covers Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

New Administrative Assistant

□ *Evan J. Hale* has been named administrative assistant to Secretary Butz. He joined USDA in 1971 and since 1973 has been deputy director of Information Division of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Two Get New Posts

□ *Hans G. Hirsch* of the Economic Research Service has been appointed agricultural attache for the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris. He replaces *Gordon O. Fraser* who has returned to Washington as an assistant administrator for International Trade, Foreign Agricultural Service.

Person to Person

While most USDA employees were enjoying a four-day Christmas holiday, organic chemists *Robert Kleiman* and *Dr. William H. Tallent* worked all day Dec. 24 and into Christmas Day on exacting scientific analyses needed in an emergency.

The two Agricultural Research Service scientists are employed at the northern regional research laboratory in Peoria, Ill. On the morning before Christmas, Dr. Tallent just happened to stop in his office briefly—and the phone rang.

It was a call for help. Residents of a nearby community had been evacuated after a railroad tank car of acrylonitrile had spilled out on the ground. Seepage into water supplies was feared. An analyst from the company manufacturing the chemical had been grounded because of bad weather.

A gas chromatographic column used in detecting and measuring the chemical was available in the ARS seed oil screening lab. However the particular analysis needed was far from routine for the ARS scientists.

It took several attempts and many hours of perseverance before they triumphed over all difficulties, completed the urgent analyses, and left well after midnight with a lost holiday and the inner satisfaction of having served thier neighbors well.



Robert Kleiman injects a sample into a gas chromatograph to detect minute amounts of a chemical as indicated on the graph that Dr. William H. Tallent is holding.

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Many Hundreds Sign As Volunteers In The National Forests

Volunteer work in the 187 million acre National Forest System is well started and growing, with persons of all ages participating.

Under the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972, the Forest Service is authorized to enter cooperative agreements with people who want to assist in conservation work of the public lands.

What do volunteers do? A better question is, what don't they do?

Researching range and wildlife, monitoring water purity, recording historical data, cleaning recreation sites, serving at information stations, planting trees, typing, grubbing trails, even riding in parades—these are just some of the volunteer activities reported.

Here is a look at a few of the more than 2,000 volunteers who served in the program last year, contributing an estimated half-million dollars in necessary and important work:

The **Dirty Dozen Motorcycle Club**, using axes, shovels and chainsaws, cleared 80 miles of Oregon's Umatilla National Forest trails of large rocks and fallen trees in a 48-hour period.

Kennel M. Elliott helped develop a snowmobile operators' training and testing packet at the Nicolet NF in Wisconsin.

Carol Floyd, who had never worked in an office before, became so proficient in office skills while doing volunteer work that she won a job as a worker-trainee for the National Forests in Missouri.

Dorothy Cole, housewife, volunteered, and rounded up enough other volunteers to keep a Visitor Information Station on the Cleveland NF in California open on a regular schedule.

Husband-wife botanist team **Ralph and Dorothy Naas** identified and collected plant specimens on the Okanogan NF in Wisconsin.

William V. McConnell made arrangements for a detailed computer analysis of groundwater quality data taken in fertilized tree stands near Tallahassee, Florida, and helped prepare the report.

FS retiree **Donald E. Taft** continues working as a volunteer for the Allegheny NF in Pennsylvania, helping formulate plans for the 50th anniversary of FS.

For the Angeles NF in California, six volunteers ranging in age from 5 to 16 were utilized to assist in Smokey Bear and Woody Owl programs and also were used on floats in parades.

And then there was the unnamed volunteer at Nezperce NF in Idaho who prepared raven pellets for analysis of food habits.

While there have been volunteers working in many FS field units for more than a year, the first volunteer to work in the Washington office was signed up in January. **Lee Terwilleger**, a university senior majoring in recreation is assisting in preparation of source materials for NF naturalist programs.

FS Chief **John R. McGuire** reports that the opportunity to join in the Volunteers in the National Forests program is open to anyone wishing to apply.

"Volunteers are limited only by their willingness to serve so long as such efforts benefit a Forest Service activity," he said. A volunteer may work full time, only a

few hours weekly, or may contribute a one-time service.

The volunteers work without pay but may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses for travel, food and lodging.

Although not classified as federal employees, the volunteers' agreements provide coverage for work-related injury and legal protection if the volunteer is sued for damage resulting from motor vehicle operation on official duty assignments.

A prospective volunteer may apply at any FS office in the area he or she wishes to serve.

Positions are available in cooperative forestry, national forest administration and forestry research in FS field locations throughout the country, but only limited openings are available in Washington, D.C.

Typical jobs for volunteers may include conducting interpretative natural history walks and auto tours, leading youth groups in work or study of the natural environment, making natural resource surveys, or assisting in developing resource management plans.

The majority of the volunteers have been drawn from the ranks of the retired or youth, but FS officials emphasize that volunteers of any age, race, sex, religion, or national origin are welcome and can make a valuable contribution. □



Rappel ropes hold members of the Tacoma branch of the Mountaineers and representatives of Explorer Scout Search and Rescue Post 515 as they plant seedlings on steep Olympic NF slopes in

Washington. The volunteers planted 3,500 Douglas fir seedlings where terrain was too steep for planting by conventional means. (Vince Fuleo photo)

News

20 Percent Mileage Reduction Set □ A new government-wide directive calls for a 20 percent reduction in the mileage of all motor vehicles used for official purposes from the comparable period of 1973.

This directive supersedes the earlier reduction of 7 percent in the use of motor vehicles and the use of common carriers.

Motor vehicles have been defined as all government-owned, commercially leased or rented, and privately-owned vehicles used on official business.

Joseph R. Wright, Jr., assistant secretary for administration, will prepare quarterly mileage allotments for USDA agencies.

The allotments will be based upon mileage information provided by each agency. Allocations will take into consideration the nature of agency programs, priorities within programs and the percent of mileage reduction imposed. Allotments will be coordinated with agency energy conservation representatives prior to issuance.

Designated agency energy conservation officers will monitor the monthly mileage reports and take such actions as necessary to keep the quarterly mileage within allotted limits.

Each agency is responsible for taking positive action to direct and control the mileage of all motor vehicles used for official purposes within the allotments.

The Director, Office of Plant and Operations, is responsible for Departmental coordination, reports, and liaison. He will be responsible for computing and recommending the quarterly mileage allotments for each agency.

New Foreign Agricultural Service Is Established □ Effective Feb. 3, Secretary Butz established a new Foreign Agricultural Service, transferring into the agency the following:

- a) All functions of the then Foreign Agriculture Service.
- b) All functions of the Export Marketing Service.
- c) All functions of the International Organizations Staff.

Farm Exports Put U.S. Trade Balance In The Black □ The 1973 record surplus in agricultural trade has resulted in the first U.S. favorable balance of trade in three years.

The farm trade surplus of \$9.3 billion wiped out a deficit of \$7.6 billion in non-agricultural trade, leaving the nation with an overall 1973 trade surplus of \$1.7 billion, the first trade surplus since 1970, reports Secretary Butz.

The surplus was built by sale of \$17.7

billion of American agricultural products abroad during calendar year 1973, against U.S. foreign food imports of \$8.4 billion.

"The surplus in agricultural trade is making a vital contribution to the nation and to every consumer. The trade surplus in agriculture is stabilizing the dollar, strengthening our international trade posture, and helping pay for much-needed oil and consumer goods that add to our level of living affluence," Secretary Butz said.

"The \$9.3 billion surplus in farm trade will buy a lot of oil," he added.

Largest USDA-Financed Energy Project Underway □ The Rural Electrification Administration's new loan guarantee program started in a big way with the largest energy project ever financed by USDA—a new 900-megawatt generating plant at Underwood, N.D., to be fired with coal mined locally.

The Department estimates the amount of coal used will be equivalent to 15.7 million barrels of fuel oil, or 45.6 billion cubic feet of natural gas annually.

REA loans totaling \$83 million are going to two electric cooperatives in Minnesota which will locate the plant at the North Dakota site and install 409 miles of transmission lines to move the electricity to the Dean Lake, Minn., area.

An additional \$454 million will come from non-REA sources through loans which will be fully guaranteed by REA on behalf of the federal government.

When completed, the project will provide added power needed by about 800,000 farm and other rural users who are members of 33 distribution cooperatives whose service areas cover almost half of Minnesota.

REA was authorized to enter into loan guarantee arrangements under a law signed by President Nixon last May 11. REA expects to commit about \$1 billion in guaranteed loans for bulk power supply facilities in this fiscal year.

Don't Buy a Smuggled Pet Bird □ If you want a pet bird, be sure to buy one raised in this country or imported through USDA-approved quarantine facilities.

In fact, anyone acquiring a bird is urged by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to require evidence that it was obtained from approved sources. Smuggled birds could carry exotic Newcastle disease or psittacosis (parrot fever).

Exotic Newcastle is a foreign virus disease that is usually fatal to poultry and other birds but is harmless to humans. Parrot fever is a respiratory disease carried by parrots, parakeets and similar birds, which can be transmitted to humans.

Recent seizures by the U.S. Customs Service along the Mexican border con-

firm reports that some birds are being smuggled into the U.S.

More Farm Production Loan Funds Made Available □ To help farmers fulfill higher production goals, an additional \$175 million has been made available for Farmers Home Administration production loans to eligible family farmers and ranchers.

The increase brings to \$525 million the total amount available through the agency for farm operating loans in fiscal year 1974, a record one-year's funding of the program.

The \$350 million originally authorized has fallen short of lasting through the winter and spring as millions of idle acres have been brought into production plans, and costs have risen on farm operating expenses.

FHA makes loans only to operators of family-size farms and ranches who cannot obtain production financing from local sources. Most loans are repaid at the end of the production year. They are obtained through county FHA offices.

Showings Available of "The Pull of The Marketplace" Slide Set □ A new slide show illustrates economic growth taking place around the world, explains rising world-wide demand for food, shows what's happening in major U.S. farm export markets, demonstrates the value of agricultural exports to the U.S. economy, and raises export challenges for U.S. agriculture in the future.

Basically, the 23-minute 224-slide set helps answer the big question of why U.S. farm exports are increasing so rapidly.

Inquires about this USDA color slide show, "The Pull of the Marketplace" should be referred to the nearest office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service where arrangements can be made for showing the set to any interested group.

One-time presentations for organizations and other groups may be arranged through ASCS offices, or the slide show may be purchased through the Photography Division, Office of Communications, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, at a cost of \$40 per set.

Helpful Booklet Offered on "Trees For Polluted Air" □ A Forest Service Leaflet, *Trees For Polluted Air*, may prove particularly helpful to urbanites and suburbanites.

Pointing out that while scientists have not yet been able to amass all the facts about the effects of air pollution on trees, the publication reports that sulfur dioxide, fluorides, and ozone are the major tree despoilers.

Readers will also learn that trees are as individual as humans. Sometimes trees growing in a single area under siege by pollutants will show symptoms of injury

or will die while their neighbors remain healthy.

Gardeners and others undertaking planting programs are advised to look out for nearby sources of pollution and plant only vegetation known to tolerate local pollutants. Some general advice is given on what causes which kinds of pollutants.

Particularly helpful are compiled lists of the known responses by both hardwoods and softwoods to various pollutants.

Single copies of *Trees For Polluted Air* are available free while they last from the Division of Information and Education, Room 3230, Forest Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Control of Farming Continues To Shift □ Control of agricultural enterprises will continue to shift toward vertical coordination arrangements, cooperative enterprises, family and investor corporations, and arrangements involving farm credit.

A report by the Economic Research Service indicates the trend toward off-farm control is being encouraged by the quickening pace of change in agricultural technology and in processing and marketing goods.

Vertical coordination via production contracts will probably account for most of this continued shift of control to off-farm firms.

Farm leasing may also continue to increase, including not only land but

buildings, machinery, custom hiring for farm operations, and custom livestock feeding.

Farm credit encumbrances are expected to expand significantly over the next decade. Current trends indicate some shift of control to creditors.

If you're interested in the full report of "Entrepreneurial Control in Farming" (ERS 542) you may request it from the Division of Information, ERS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

USDA, Universities Form International Council □ A Council on International Science and Education has been formed to extend to international agriculture the benefits that American agriculture has derived from cooperative scientific research efforts of the federal government and state land grant colleges.

An agreement creating the Council was signed by Secretary Butz and L.C. Dowdy, president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-grant Colleges. The Council will function under co-chairmen appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the president of NASULGC. Membership will include an equal number of representatives of USDA and the NASULGC's colleges of agriculture.

Battle Of The Insects □ Nearly 300,000 tiny, parasitic wasps have been released in the Florida Keys and Everglades in field trials to see if the wasps can be used to biologically control pink bollworm.

The wasps, explains *Leo G.K. Iverson*, deputy administrator of APHIS, are natural enemies of the pink bollworm but are harmless to man, animals and most insects found in the United States. Pink bollworm is one of the world's most destructive pests of cotton.

The wasps seek out pink bollworm eggs and larvae in cotton and lay their own eggs inside the host. When the wasp eggs hatch, they eat their way out, destroying the host.

Currently, APHIS is evaluating the effectiveness of the year-old wasp rearing and release program. The entomologists are encouraged by the fact that they are recovering pink bollworms that have been parasitized by the wasps.

Strong Market Demand Eliminates Need For Crop Loan Extensions □ No extension of Commodity Credit Corporation loans past the original maturity date will be made for 1973 crops of grain, soybeans, or cotton.

Strong domestic and export demand and market prices well above government program loan levels for these commodities eliminates need for a loan extension, a Department announcement said. The actions also are in keeping with Department policy of removing farm commodities from government control.

New Slide Set Shows Trends in U.S. Agriculture □ A set of 186 color slides showing trends in agriculture and related subjects is available at \$25 a set from Photography Division, Office of Communication, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Slides also can be bought individually or in subsets of any of the five sections.

The individual slides are self-explanatory and are the same as those reproduced in the 1973 Handbook of Agricultural Charts, with color added.

The set is divided into five sections:

The Domestic Agricultural Situation (56 slides, \$14.00)—farm income and prices; farm output, inputs and cost; farm assets and finances; land and its use; and marketing developments.

Foreign Production and Trade (12 slides, \$3.00)—acres harvested for export; export price indices; leading farm imports and exports; and world agricultural production.

Family (12 slides, \$3.00)—diet sources of protein; medical care prices; hospital insurance coverage; wives in the labor force; food prices; and children's clothing budgets.

Population and Rural Development (19 slides, \$4.75)—farm population; persons doing farm wage work; family income; incidence of poverty; and Federal spending in rural areas.

Commodity Trends (86 slides, \$21.50)—livestock and meat; dairy; poultry and eggs; grains; fats and oils; fibers; vegetables and fruit; tropical crops; and tobacco.

The slides are cardboard mounted for use in any standard projector.

Predict your future ... with U.S. savings bonds



PISCES

FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 20

The sensitive, intuitive, sympathetic Piscean is often an artistic, impractical dreamer who ignores the facts of reality and spends to excess. Yet you know instinctively that money should not be a source of worry. Save before you spend with U.S. Savings Bonds through Payroll Savings.

People

CCC Advisory Board

Members □ Archie K. Davis, Winston-Salem, N.C., and Robert Sakata, Brighton, Colo., have been appointed by President Nixon as members of the advisory board of the Community Credit Corporation. They join A.L. Krogstad, Harland, Iowa, and Clyde M. York, Columbia, Tenn., whose terms are being continued. Another member is to be named at a later date.

Federal Farm Credit Board Elects Officers

□ T. Carroll Atkinson Jr., of Marion, S.C. was elected chairman of the Federal Farm Credit Board at its organizational meeting in February. Re-elected were James H. Dean of Hutchinson, Kan., vice chairman, and Jon F. Greenstein of the Farm Credit Administration, secretary.

Comments

Yes, USDA employees have ideas, suggestions, reports, and queries about energy management.

For instance, Fred Meyer in Corpus Christi, Texas, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, wanted to find out for himself if gasoline mileage actually increased with reduced vehicle speeds. During one full month his crew kept tabs on fuel consumption at the 50 miles-per-hour rate and compared it with figures for the three months before the energy-saving speed limitation went into effect.

Sure enough—a real savings. With one vehicle an efficiency increase of almost 14 percent was noted. Another vehicle demonstrated an increase of almost 21 percent.

His last comment on his report was "Now we are convinced—it WORKS!"

Another APHIS inspector has some worries:

What we would like to hear is something on the gasoline shortage pertaining to field inspections, and what our situation would be in rationing or whatever should take place. As you probably know, in the metropolitan areas, gasoline is like GOLD and people spend time in lines waiting for it.

M.D.
Bayonne, N.J.

The word is that essential government services will continue to have needed fuel supplies available. Specific information will come through regular agency channels.

Many field stations operate pickup trucks and sedan delivery vehicles (often on station wagon bodies) each of which can carry two persons.

At times field work entails the work of as many hands as possible, and the use of such limited-seating vehicles either drastically limits the scope or completeness of the work—or doubles the gasoline consumption per trip when two

vehicles are used to do the work of one.

However, in panel wagons a rear seat can easily be installed. This would permit the use of the panel station wagon type vehicle to complete the necessary work at a minimum expenditure of funds.

Isn't there a way such installations can be made so that they may comply with safety regulations? Certainly the reduction of gasoline requirements by such vehicle utilization would be worth the consideration.

It might well be that the continued good agricultural research efforts, even under the duress of fuel shortages, may prevent a food shortage (or famine) in the future. No energy shortage could be more damaging to our civilization than that!

R.W.J.
ARIS, Brownwood, Texas

In a recent issue of USDA you listed several ways of conserving energy and asked readers to suggest others. Riding a bicycle seems an obvious alternative to driving a car or using an already over-taxed transit system. Unfortunately the Department does little to encourage it.

A major problem for bike riders is finding a safe place to park. Even if a rack is provided, anyone with a second-hand bolt cutter can free a chained bike in seconds.

I have talked with USDA security officers, and the best they can suggest is taking the bike to my office or leaving it with a friend in the basement or ground floor, and I am not acquainted with anyone on the first floor or basement who could provide bike storage.

I think that if the Department is really into saving energy it would provide secure storage for employees who choose to ride bicycles. The traffic hassles are bad enough without having to worry that your wheels may be stolen by the time you're ready to go home.

W.B.
Washington, D.C.

After receiving the above letter, we checked around among other bike riders. Generally, they were less concerned than W.B., believing that when bike racks are

provided, a chained bike is fairly secure.

One veteran bike rider had this comment:

"I ride an old beat-up bike—nothing to catch a thief's eye—and carry a long-enough chain to secure both wheels, so about the only item that can be ripped off is the seat. And if I should lose the bike, I figure it's less than the \$100 deductible on my insurance when a fender gets bashed in the parking lot!"

He added, "Riding a bike sure saves fuel. I fill up the car not more than once a week."

Enclosed is a newspaper article that I would like to share with fellow USDA employees. Just a little energy conservation idea that will go a long way.

C.W.J.
Amboy, Illinois

The newspaper article is too long to reproduce in entirety but it reports that many families and businesses are saving fuel by using a convenient stamps-by-mail service introduced last summer in selected post office.

Using a handy self-mailer provided by the Postal Service, customers simply check the quantities of stamps and stamped envelopes needed, enclose a check or money order and drop the envelope in the mail. The stamps are delivered in most cases by the second business day. For each transaction the Postal Service charges 40 cents for handling costs, including postage.

Initially, the stamps-by-mail program was introduced to help shut-ins and others who could not conveniently travel to the post office. An indication that the mail-order stamp program is turning into a big fuel-saver is suggested by the program's popularity in suburban communities. In these areas, sales are running higher than first expected. One suburban Post Office official said, "Families can often save a gallon or more of gasoline by purchasing stamps through the mails."

Check with your local post office to see if the stamps-by-mail program is offered locally. It's still a pilot project and, therefore, not yet nation-wide.

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Jo Perrill, Acting Editor.

ASCS' Contingues

To Serve As

Role Changes

It's a new ball game this year. Not only for farmers, but also for the 9,500 fulltime employees in the 2,756 county offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

In previous springs, long lines of farmers formed at ASCS offices to sign up in nearly assembly-line fashion for the wheat, feed grain, and cotton programs.

This year, because of market demand and the freedom provided by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to respond to that demand, no sign-up lines have formed at county ASCS offices. Farmers have the freedom to plant without restriction and without filling in complicated government forms.

In other years, farmers and ASCS employees alike had to learn the language of program requirements for feed grains, wheat, and cotton.

Farmers had to learn—and county office employees had to explain—rules about set-aside land, options, allotments, bases, substitution, alternate crops, conserving base, established yield, compliance, certification, and much more.

This year, a minimum of explanation is needed. Except for the marketing quota crops of rice, extra-long-staple cotton, and some kinds of tobacco, farmers may plant as much land as they have to whatever crops they choose.

Full production is being encouraged in order to supply the market for food, both in this country and overseas.

With this situation, only a minimum of government paperwork is needed. Sign-up and certification in the wheat, feed grain, and cotton programs have been combined into one easy step. A farmer can sign up either by mail or by dropping by his county ASCS office at his convenience.

Another big change has been made which farmers may not even be aware of. Program sign-up and certification forms are not going to the central computers this year. Each county ASCS office is keeping its farm program records at home.

This can be done because of what now seems the unlikelihood of farm program payments for this year's crops.

Should this change, the computer operation would be geared up again in order for payments to be made.

While ASCS county people are unlearning the program requirements of other years, they are also learning something entirely new to them—how to administer the disaster payment provisions of the 1973 Agriculture Act.

A massive training program is underway to continue through April - with assistance from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, since appraisal

and adjustments on crop losses are involved. This is a new area to ASCS, and will be administered consistent with FCIC standards.

The training program is a necessity, since disaster can strike in any farm field in any county, and ASCS must be ready to respond. According to the laws of probability, however, most county offices are not likely to put this training into actual use.

County office expertise is being put to use in a big way in helping farmers who have fuel problems.

The Federal Energy Office has designated agriculture to receive top priority in the distribution of fuel - but some farmers have trouble getting enough to fulfill their added production plans for 1974.

While ASCS has no authority to obtain fuel or intercede in any way, county office



Typical activities in a county ASCS office are underway—in this instance, in the Richland County ASCS Office in Columbia, S.C. At the counter is Mrs. Clara Hill, program assistant, going over a farm aerial photo with a farmer.

Through the door at left are County Executive Director Durward Gibbons and Program Assistant Mrs. Martha Blanks. At the right, Emory Cantey, training specialist from the State ASCS Office, reviews handbooks.

employees have been trained to help farmers fill in required forms and follow the proper procedure to obtain emergency help from their State Energy Office.

Farmers will also find available at their county ASCS office a new pamphlet, "Fuel Allocations for Farmers," which was jointly prepared by the Federal Energy Office and USDA to help assure that farmers get enough fuel to meet their needs.

Besides fuel help and farm program work this spring, ASCS county offices also are busy with a conservation cost-sharing program once again, after a year-long interval without one. The new Rural Environmental Conservation Program puts increased emphasis on permanent conservation practices and on forestry and tree-planting practices.

Increased cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service is included, since the program calls for long-term conservation plans, for which the SCS provides technical assistance. And the Forest Service provides the technical help to the farmer for the forestry incentive program.

It all means closer working relationships among these USDA agencies.

All in all, it appears that county ASCS offices continue to provide needed services to farmers, adapting to changing programs responsively and responsibly. □

News

Committee On Food Safety And Quality Established □ In order to coordinate the Department's responsibilities in helping maintain an adequate supply of high-quality food, Secretary Butz has established a Committee on Food Safety and Quality within USDA.

Chairman will be *Clayton Yeutter*, Asst. Secretary for Marketing and Consumer Services.

Each of the following Services will designate a member and alternate: Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Research, Animal and Plant Health Inspection, Economic Research, Cooperative State Research, Extension, and Food and Nutrition.

The committee will advise the Secretary on departmentwide activities as they relate to food safety and quality. In addition, it will consider areas in which further studies or action may be required by the Department.

Activities of the previous Committee on Food Safety will become a part of the new committee.

Bracelets Approved For Tennessee Walking Horses □ Tests to determine what devices other than boots could safely be used on Tennessee Walking Horses have showed that light metal bracelets and smooth leather collar-like devices are safe—if adapted to fit an individual horse.

Therefore USDA will permit these bracelets and leather devices to be worn during performances.

Under the Horse Protection Act any device is prohibited that would cause a horse to be "sored." Soring refers to the practice of intentionally inflicting pain on the front feet of show horses to produce an exaggerated gait.

Under Tennessee Walking Horse show rules, boots are the only gear allowed during performances. The new USDA ruling leaves the walking horse industry free to permit metal bracelets and leather collar-like devices on horses at shows.

Officials of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service emphasize that soring by any method is still illegal.

Pioneer Spirit Alive And Well In Alaska □ The Extension Service in Anchorage, Alaska, offered a "Log Cabin Building" course in January, expecting an enrollment of about 50. More than 600 phoned in requests to take the course. The 60 students chosen represented a cross-section of old and new Alaskan lifestyles.

The four-day series of classes covered log selection and shrinkage, window and door openings and frames, laying log walls, insulation values, vapor barriers, ventilation, and many other details of housing construction.

Future plans call for evaluating the course and adapting it to a larger audience to accommodate those still on the waiting list.

Alert to Homeowners On Gypsy Moth Egg Masses □ Through mid-April, homeowners in northeastern U.S. should be looking for and destroying gypsy moth egg masses, according to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

During this period leaf-eating gypsy moths are in the egg stage—buff-colored, velvety egg clusters. Egg masses may appear on the undersides of tree branches, lawn furniture, and any stationary objects such as trailers and campers. In the woods, they are in bark crevices or on the undersides of tree limbs, rocks and other objects.

To destroy, paint each egg mass with creosote or completely scrape the mass off into a can of kerosene.

Each egg mass contains 200 to 800 potential leaf-stripping caterpillars, and destroying egg masses is much more effi-

cient than trying to kill individual caterpillars when they are feeding on the leaves in the spring.

Gypsy moth caterpillars hatch in mid-April and May.

Income Tax Refunds Can Be Ready-Made Savings □ Here's a reminder from the Treasury Department: your income tax refund is a savings you've already made, ready to be tucked away as a nice lump-sum payment on tomorrow. One of the easiest ways to make sure you really do use it for tomorrow's dream is to take your refund check and turn it into Series E savings bonds.

E bonds earn 6 percent interest, compounded semiannually, when held to maturity of 5 years.

You may defer payment of federal tax on your E bond interest until you cash your bonds or until they mature—and the interest is exempt from state and local income taxes.

Booklet on Preventing Wood Decay □ How to protect wood buildings from decay is the subject of a new Forest Service booklet.

In 56 well-illustrated pages, two primary means are emphasized. One is using dry wood and construction methods to keep wood dry. The other is using preservatives to treat wood in areas where dry conditions cannot be maintained.

The booklet is based on more than 40 years of observation and research by government agencies.

Single copies are available on request from the Southern Forest Experiment Station, 701 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, La. 70113. Ask for "Principles for Protecting Wood Buildings from Decay." USDA Forest Service Research Paper FPL-190.

\$100 Million Price Tag On Cotton Gins' Air Pollution Control □ A cost of more than \$100 million is estimated by the Economic Research Service to bring all cotton gins into compliance with the strictest existing air pollution control regulations.

Annual costs would exceed \$28.5 million. This amounts to about \$2.23 per bale, based on a 12.8-million-bale crop.

New Slide Set On Food Stamp Program □ A 61-frame color slide set, "The Food Stamp Program and You," is now available. It may also be ordered as a filmstrip.

First half of the set gives a general introduction and is directed to potential participants. Second half is directed to those already in the program, telling them how to use their coupons. The two parts can be presented independently or together.

Copies of the slide set can be purchased for \$18.50 from Photography

Div., Office of Communication, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Order the film-strip for \$10.50 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011.

Puerto Rico Enters Food Stamp Program □ Beginning in May, Puerto Rico will begin implementing the food stamp program in its various municipalities.

Implementation will be on a gradual basis, continuing until completed in March, 1975. The existing food distribution program will continue to meet the food needs of low-income families until the food stamp program is fully implemented in Puerto Rico.

Changes In Livestock Export Terminals □ Richmond, Va., and Honolulu, Hawaii, have been approved as livestock export terminals, and 15 other cities have been dropped from the approved list.

The current list of designated ports-of-export for livestock is as follows:

Airports—Miami, Tampa, and St. Petersburg, Fla.; Houston, Tex.; San Francisco, Calif.; Portland, Ore.; Honolulu and Richmond.

Ocean ports—Richmond, Miami, Tampa, Houston, San Francisco, Portland, and Honolulu. New York has limited facilities for small shipments of horses by sea and air.

Mexican border ports—Brownsville, Hidalgo, Laredo, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and El Paso, Tex.; Douglas and Nogales, Ariz.; Calexico and San Ysidro, Calif.

Canadian border points—Approximately

50 at which the Canadian Department of Agriculture maintains veterinary inspection services.

Exotic Newcastle Disease Found In Texas Poultry □ A team of federal and state veterinarians began on-the-scene checks as soon as Exotic Newcastle disease was confirmed near El Paso, Texas, in February.

Three backyard flocks, including chickens, geese, pheasants, and pea fowl, were destroyed, the premises disinfected, and a state quarantine placed. Flock owners are compensated for poultry destroyed and other associated losses.

The federal-state team immediately began checking to determine where the disease originated and to locate other flocks that might be infected or exposed.

Exotic Newcastle disease is a contagious and deadly virus disease affecting all species of birds. It does not pose a hazard to humans.

"Atlas Of Southern Forest Game" Answers Questions On Wildlife □ This 24-page booklet presents information about distribution of important game animals that find their food and cover in the 200 million acres of southern forests.

It shows trends in populations, where game kills are highest, and locations of public hunting areas. It describes habitat requirements and possible habitat improvements for various species, including some migratory birds that winter in the South.

The booklet seems equally valuable for hunters, hikers, and homeowners wanting to know what plants help wildlife habitat. Single copies are available from the Southern Forest Experiment Station, 701 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, La. 70113. Ask for the "Atlas of Southern Forest Game."

Japanese Beetle Quarantine Now In 24 States □ Quarantine restrictions because of the Japanese beetle are in effect in parts of 24 states and the District of Columbia, reports the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The Japanese beetle attacks nearly 300 kinds of plants. The grubs feed on roots of grasses and on turf. Adult beetles feed on flowers, shrubs, trees, fruit, and on field crops such as corn and soybeans.

The quarantine regulates shipment from infested to uninfested areas of articles that might carry the beetles, such as plants with roots, grass sod, and bulbs.

States partially or wholly under the quarantine are Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

All But One County Now In Food Program □ Only one county in the United States, Beaver County, Okla., is now without a food assistance program or immediate plans for one.

Five years ago, when President Nixon made a historic public commitment to a drive to end hunger, there were 430 counties without a food program.

Now the scorecard reads: 3,013 food stamp counties, 61 food distribution counties, 54 combination counties (food stamp in one part, food distribution in another) and one county without a program or a plan for one in the immediate future.

ACTION Service Now Creditable For Leave □ If you served as a volunteer in ACTION, you should check with your agency's personnel office. Certain full-time ACTION volunteer service is now creditable for leave, reduction in force, and retirement purposes (but not for career tenure or probation) to the same extent that Peace Corps and VISTA volunteer service is creditable now.

People

Intergovernmental Affairs Assistant □ *R. B. Wilson*, agricultural economist, educator, and since 1969 associate director of Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station, has been named to direct the USDA Intergovernmental Affairs Office as an assistant to Secretary Butz. He succeeds *William F. (Red) Moss* who has returned to the University of Tennessee.

Secretary's Representatives □ Secretary Butz has announced additional appointments of his Federal Regional Council representatives.

John P. Orcutt, regional representative in Denver for USDA's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (OIA), heads region 8, serving Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana.

Stanley I. Trenhaile, OIA's regional representative in Seattle, has been appointed as region 10 chief, which serves Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington.

U.S.S.R. Agricultural Attache □ *Roger E. Neetz* is the new U.S. agricultural attache to Moscow, U.S.S.R. He has served as assistant agricultural attache in Bonn, Germany, since 1970. He succeeds *G. Stanley Brown* who has returned to Washington for reassignment.

saveenergy

A reminder: the Civil Service Commission has a special honor awards program in progress, aimed at reducing use of energy by the federal government.

Presidential Energy Conservation Awards will be granted to agencies which meet or exceed the goals set, and to individuals who contribute significantly to meeting the goals.

Additionally, all USDA agencies are using the incentive awards program to recognize outstanding achievements in saving energy. If you have an idea, check with your personnel office on how to submit it and thereby help everyone save on use of energy resources.

saveenergy



Secretary Butz, Federal Chairman of the 1974 U.S. Savings Bond Drive, is shown with USDA bond sales directors Joseph R. Wright, Jr., left, Assistant Secretary for Administration, and George Vitas, right, forester landscape architect, Forest Service. Theme of this year's campaign is "Share a Common Bond," to remind Americans of our common heritage and to help promote the new higher 6 percent interest rate voted by Congress in December.



A week-long gathering, first nationwide meeting of Forest Service civil rights program specialists, was held recently in Alexandria, Va., to assess progress and recommend improvements. About 55 FS employees participated. Among those present at the final session were, from left to right, Chester Shields, FS Associate Deputy Chief; S. Pranger, USDA Director of Personnel; Rexford Resler, FS Associate Chief; and Robert Long, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Conservation, Research, and Education.

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Jo Perrill, Acting Editor.

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'USDA'

Volume 33
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April 17, 1974

ARS Experiments

In Designing

\$10,000 House

What would you say to a six-room house that can be put up within a week, costs under \$10,000, can be heated at low cost, utilizes largely unskilled labor in construction, and creates employment opportunities for people in the community?

A house designed so that the panelized sections can be dismantled and reassembled elsewhere? Where inside walls and doors can be shifted to change the size of the rooms? One that's probably stronger than many houses going up today?

The USDA publication, "Agricultural Research," reports that such a house is no fantasy.

A simplification of commercial construction techniques makes it a reality, particularly for depressed rural areas where the need is great.

An experimental house much like the one described was recently built in Romney, W. Va., under the supervision of *Jerry Newman*, an Agricultural Research Service agricultural engineer based at Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., and *Russell Parker*, an architect at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville Md.

The structure represents, in Dr. Newman's words, "the best overall approach we know of for building an inexpensive good house. Basically it's simple one-level building measuring 30 by 32 feet. It contains a living room with dining area, three bedrooms, kitchen, small entry hall, and utility room."

Several features make this house different—its use of a pole-frame design combined with non-load-bearing walls, precut and preassembled panels, trusses, and joists.

The pole-frame design provides support for the structure and permits flexibility in placing or moving inside walls. These

walls do not support the building. They serve only to divide interior space, just as they do in a modern high rise or office building.

Use of precut and preassembled panels, trusses and joists, which are built by Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) workers right in the community, make for speedier construction.

"The panelized construction makes it possible for homeowners to dismantle their homes and reassemble them elsewhere with a minimum of effort and cost," says Dr. Newman.

"The basic parts of a house don't deteriorate under normal conditions. So being able to take it apart and put it back together, or to simply upgrade it or rearrange the rooms, seems to be a useful design feature," he concludes.

The foundation panels were placed directly in an excavation backfilled with 6

to 8 inches of gravel. Footing for the poles consists of pressure-treated wood, and, in some instances, solid concrete blocks.

Dr. Newman estimates the main frame can be put up by a crew of four or five untrained laborers, directed by one experienced man, in a matter of hours.

"You could have shelter in a day and within a week you would have pretty convenient, comfortable living," he says.

Heating economies are brought about by using peripheral heating in connection with any standard form of heating from furnace, fireplace or stove. This concept utilizes built-in fans in strategic locations to distribute heat uniformly and efficiently throughout the house.

The \$10,000 figure for cost will vary depending on locations. However, Dr. Newman believes the figure is a practical one, reflecting to some degree the

Workers tilt the precut pole frames into position. These provide the basic support for the house. The frames are constructed of 4- by 6-inch vertical, and 2- by 8-inch horizontal sections, with a 2- by 3-inch plate to straighten the frame.





Construction supervisor Sterling Method (center) and a member of the construction crew discuss the newly completed home with a local resident.

economy of the depressed rural areas for which the house is especially designed.

The work at Romney was done under a cooperative agreement between ARS and the Eastern West Virginia Housing Association, an OEO group, which seeks to foster development of local business opportunities.

Several low-income families have asked to be considered as buyers of the home. The State engineer has approved the design for financing by the Farmers Home Administration. □

News

Far East Trip For Secretary Butz □ Secretary Butz left April 2 for three weeks of trade and agricultural discussions with Asian countries.

He was scheduled to visit Japan, Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Commenting on the growth of Asian markets, the Secretary pointed out that it was only four years ago that Japan became the first billion dollar customer for U.S. farm products and said "for 1973-74, we are estimating the Japanese market at \$3.4 billion."

U.S. agricultural exports to Asia will exceed \$8.5 billion this fiscal year, compared with \$4.6 billion last year.

Beef Buying Program To Assist Cattle Producers □ A beef purchase program of up to \$45 million has been initiated by USDA in conjunction with the Department's other efforts to improve prices to cattle producers and feeders.

According to the Agricultural Marketing Service, removal of fed beef from normal channels for later distribution to schools should be effective in stabilizing and improving cattle prices at a time when substantial numbers of fed cattle are going to market.

At the same time, USDA further called consumers' attention to the availability of plentiful supplies of beef at the end of March. It urged retailers to continue promotional efforts in beef merchandising.

Film Explains Egg Grading □ A new 16-mm color film, "Egg Grades—A Matter of Quality," explains the meaning of the USDA grade on a carton of eggs and how differences in egg quality are determined.

The story of modern egg production and marketing, produced by the Agricultural Marketing Service, is told in a 12-minute presentation.

The role of Federal-State graders in assuring top quality eggs for the marketplace is emphasized. The film provides consumer information on egg grades and

sizes and its intended for use by home economists, extension specialists and other consumer educators.

Prints of the film are \$67 each, available from the Motion Picture Service, Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. The film also can be borrowed from Cooperative Extension Libraries at land-grant universities.

National 4-H Livestock Judging Event Is Moved □ The 1974 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will be moved from the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago to the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 21-22.

The contest has been held in Chicago since it began 50 years ago. As plans were being made to establish the North American Livestock Exposition, state 4-H judging coaches and livestock specialists suggested the move to the new exposition.

A survey of state 4-H leaders led to the decision to move the event to Louisville because of its central location for participating states. Teams from 32 states participated in the 4-H event last year.

USDA Asks For More Rail Cars For Fertilizer □ Secretary Butz has asked the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to direct railroads to make available, on a preferred basis, additional rail cars to assure the essential and timely delivery of fertilizer to the nation's farmers.

He asked that the ICC use its emergency authority for 3,000 more covered hopper cars and 1,000 more boxcars between mid-March and May 1.

Need for the priority on additional rail transportation, the Secretary pointed out, would be temporary and should have minimum impact on other shippers.

While inventories of fertilizers are below normal and demand is up, indications are that enough fertilizer is available. The major problem this spring is getting the fertilizer to the farmers in time to meet planting needs.

Spring Cleanup Topic of New Slide Set □ "Pitch In For A Cleaner Community" is a new 103-frame color slide presentation now available to communities and organizations for use in kicking off a cleanup campaign.

The slide set may be ordered for \$21.50 from Photography Div., Office of Communication, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Order the filmstrip for \$15 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011. Price includes cassette with soundtrack and two copies of the illustrated narrative guide.

The presentation shows how one family realized that their home was becoming rundown. After fixing up their

own premises, they extend their cleanup campaign to the community.

As a slide set, the final minutes can be adapted to specific areas by substituting slides showing local situations.

Plan A Year Ahead □ Want to make a float trip down the Salmon River, "The River of No Return"? Plan for the summer of 1975 unless you already have an advance reservation and permit.

Last year 3,500 people floated the main Salmon River in Idaho. Applications are accepted beginning in October for the following summer. All reservations are already filled for this 1974 summer.

To obtain information on float trip permits and reservations, write to the North Fork Ranger Station, Salmon National Forest, North Fork, Idaho 83466.

Contrasts in U.S. and Chinese Agriculture □ Grain output in the United States and the People's Republic of China is about the same, but China emphasizes grain for human consumption rather than for use as livestock feed.

This and other differences are pointed out in a study, "Agriculture in the United States and the People's Republic of China, 1967-71." It is available free from the Office of Communication, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, and could make a good subject for a speech. For instance:

savenergy

How much fuel oil do you save if you burn wood to supplement your heat supply? Twenty-four pounds of dry wood has the heating value of about one gallon of heating oil.

Wood of any species (air dry) has a caloric value of about 5700 BTU. The presence of oils, resins, and extractives will increase this value. Therefore woods such as longleaf pine will have a somewhat higher value. Burning wood with a higher moisture content will result in a reduction of the heating value.

Following is the equivalent in gallons of fuel oil for one cord (4'x4'x8') of the wood named: ash, 137; beech, 150; birch, 147; cedar, 110; cottonwood, 93; American elm, 120; balsam fir, 83; hickory, 170; black locust, 160; hard maple, 140; soft maple, 117; red oak, 147; white pine, 83; sycamore, 113; yellow poplar, 93.

savenergy

In China, 55 percent of total grain area is planted to food grains, while in the U.S. 65 percent is in feed grains. Diets differ accordingly. Starches account for almost 80 percent of average daily caloric intake in China, but for only 23 percent in the U.S.

U.S. crop yields are generally twice as high as yields in China—the difference between a technological agriculture and a labor-intensive agriculture.

China, with half as many cattle, uses them primarily for draft purposes instead of meat. But China has nearly three times more hogs and sheep than the U.S., despite the low levels of feed grain production.

REA Loan Sparks New Opportunities For Papago Indians □ A \$1.32 million loan announced by the Rural Electrification Administration is expected to spur economic growth on the Papago Indian Reservation in Arizona.

The action is part of the Department's rural development effort which helps areas achieve local improvement objectives.

The loan will help the Papago Tribal Utility Authority acquire electric facilities, bringing the total served by the Authority to about 3,000. Of these, 750 will receive electric service for the first time because of the REA loan.

Old Cropland Lost, New Cropland Gained □ Rapid urbanization has had little impact on the total amount of U.S. cropland, even though more than 3.5 million cropland acres were lost to urban sprawl in the last 10 years.

This seeming paradox is explained in a report by the Economic Research Service which points out that for every cropland acre urbanized, U.S. farmers added about three acres of productive new land.

The 350,000 acres of cropland lost each year to urbanization represents only about 1/10th of 1 percent of total U.S. cropland.

Standards To Be Updated For Accredited Veterinarians □ USDA is proposing to revise its standards governing private veterinarians who help administer cooperative state-federal disease control and eradication programs and federal humane laws.

The proposed revisions would broaden the veterinarians' duties to clearly include helping horse shows comply with the Horse Protection Act, clarify responsibilities in handling animal medicines and official forms and tags, and would also clarify the conditions under which accreditation can be withdrawn.

Private veterinarians play a key role in state-federal programs by examining, vaccinating and certifying to the health of animals that are subject to government regulation.

People

Reassignment for Assistant Secretary □ Clayton Yeutter has been reassigned by Secretary Butz to be assistant secretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs following the resignation of Carroll G. Brunthaver. Yeutter's post since January 1973 had been assistant secretary for marketing and consumer services.

Regional Representative in Chicago □ Gary K. Madson, deputy administrator of the Rural Development Service, has been named by Secretary Butz to be the Department's Federal Regional Council representative for region 5 with headquarters in Chicago. The regional office serves the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

New Associate Administrator of AMS □ The promotion of John C. Blum to the position of associate administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service has been announced by Secretary Butz. He moves up from the position of deputy administrator for regulatory programs.

FHA Associate Administrator Named □ Frank W. Naylor, Jr., former deputy manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, has been appointed associate administrator of the Farmers Home Administration. He returns to USDA from the Veterans Administration where he has been executive assistant to the administrator since April, 1973.

Forest Service Manpower Director □ Leon H. Anderson has been named to head the multi-million dollar Manpower and Youth Conservation Programs for the Forest Service. He will direct national training programs involving some 20,000 trainees and volunteers.

U.S.S.R. Agricultural Attache □ Roger E. Neetz is the new U.S. agricultural attache to Moscow, U.S.S.R. He has served as assistant agricultural attache in Bonn, Germany, since 1970. He succeeds G. Stanley Brown who has returned to Washington for reassignment.



Available for Showing

Following is a review of slide sets and filmstrips in the field of home economics which are available from USDA.

The slides can be purchased from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Communication
Photography Division
Washington, D.C. 20250

Filmstrips can be purchased from:

Photo Lab, Inc.
3825 Georgia Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011

When ordering, always give both title and number.

ANN'S ADDITIVE STORY. C-98. 35 frames. Slide set \$13. Filmstrip \$5.50. Provides information on how some chemicals make today's food nutritious, abundant, and safe.

BREAKFAST AND THE BRIGHT LIFE. A-56. 60 frames. Slide set \$14. Taped narration \$1.50. Seeks to motivate youth to improve nutrition by emphasizing the importance of breakfast to physical and mental performance, attitudes, and health.

GOOD MEALS FOR BUSY DAYS. C-106. 57 frames. Slide set \$14. Filmstrip \$6.50. Shows how to prepare three simple meals with a minimum of time and labor. Basic points brought out in planning meals ahead, use of convenience foods, family cooperation, use of equipment, and use of tested recipes.

HOW FOOD AFFECTS YOU. C-156. 47 frames. Slide set \$13. Filmstrip \$5.50. Tells which foods do what for your body

in simple terms. What makes your hair shiny, your cheeks rosy.

HOW TO BUY BEEF. C-123. 33 frames. Slide set \$13. Filmstrip \$5.50. Cassette \$3. Designed to help consumers buy beef by USDA grade and by cut.

HOW TO BUY EGGS. C-139. 40 frames. Slide set \$13. Filmstrip \$5.50. Cassette \$3. Gives information for consumers on how to buy eggs by USDA grades and weight classes.

IMPROVING TEENAGE NUTRITION. C-116. Slide set \$13. Filmstrip \$5.50. Helps recognize the need for improving nutrition in teenagers and helps plan ways to improve teenage nutrition. Emphasis is placed on the importance of establishing proper eating habits for teenagers.

RECIPES USING NON-INSTANT, NON-FAT DRY MILK AND OTHER DONATED FOODS. C-169. 49 frames. Slide set \$13. Filmstrip \$5.50. This how-to-do-it set tells how to mix non-instant, nonfat dry milk and how to make seven dishes and food drinks with it. Primarily for use by people who work with families using USDA-donated foods.

SELECTING AND BUYING FOOD FOR THE YOUNG FAMILY. C-121. 36 frames. Slide set \$13. Filmstrip \$5.50. Acts as a guide to a homemaker in deciding how to serve nourishing meals to her family. Gives hints on how to economize on the family budget while shopping for groceries.

WEIGHT CONTROL (The Oopsies). C-74. 22 frames. Slide set \$13. Filmstrip \$5.50. Story of two simple artwork characters who discover they have allowed themselves to get overweight. They tell why people get fat, why people want to reduce, and what helps most.

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Jo Perrill, Acting Editor.

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How Well Will The World Eat Tomorrow?

By Secretary Earl L. Butz

World concern about food comes and goes. We get very worried when stocks get low, we forget about it in times of surplus.

What is the present situation?

The world food situation is much improved. Agricultural production recovered in 1973 from the poor harvest of 1972. Production was up almost 6 percent, and the per capita output of food was equal to the previous high of 1971. Improved weather was mainly responsible.

However, adequate grain supplies seem to be at least a year away, since the past year's increase will be absorbed by pent-up consumer demand and the rebuilding of stocks. So world trade continues high, and prices are at higher levels than two years ago.

Fortunately the United States had record production years in 1972 and 1973. These new crops—on top of large U.S. grain inventories—enabled the United States to take up much of the slack occasioned by crop failures on other continents.

This achievement by America's farmers is frequently overlooked in the general concern about rising food prices and declining food inventories.

The current situation is leading to major reappraisal. Public concern is probably more widespread than ever before because of three factors:

(1) Many people who can well afford it are now having to pay higher prices for their food after years of buying it on the cheap side.

(2) Sudden realization has come that the world's resources are finite—and that we have been using food and energy and other of the earth's blessings as if they were indeed without limit.

(3) All this is being reported through a mass media technology that provides

immense new powers of communication, and sometimes, exaggeration.

But the problem is real, and has been real for a long time. We live in a world where populations continue to grow—and where people expect more from life than simple survival.

By the year 2000 we expect that world population will grow by 2 billion to 3 billion people—which would bring us up to around 7 billion.

Can the world feed these billions? I am often asked that question. My answer is that if these additional people are living on earth at that time, then quite obviously they will have been getting enough food for survival.

The real question is: How well can the world feed a population of 7 billion? Will people simply survive, or will they have enough food, with adequate nutrition, in sufficient variety and abundance, to relieve fear and stress, and leave extra energy for the civilizing, creative and exciting activities that allow full development of the human potential?

For the present, the world has not fully realized its agricultural potential—far from it! We have not reached a plateau. We have not set limits on technology. We have not put a ceiling on the work of the food scientist and the nutritionist. We have not put a brake on progress in marketing, processing, storage, distribution. Areas for growth and improvement exist in all of our countries.

Any of us can get so engrossed in our daily tasks that we forget to lift up our head from time to time to look at the panorama around us. We forget perspective.

Recently in a speech in Hong Kong, Secretary Butz spoke on "The Race Between Food And Population." Key sections of that speech are reproduced here because they offer each USDA employee a broader perspective - a look at the importance of agriculture worldwide.

For the next quarter century, we need to put our chips on the human brain—on science, imagination, ideas, enterprise. We need to encourage growth in production and trade. We need to avoid policies that would discourage initiative and freeze the world's farmers and traders into old and rigid patterns.

We believe that world food production will continue to increase more rapidly than population. However, this improvement may not occur evenly in all parts of the world.

In view of the world's ability to expand food production, we should not expect mass starvation in any part of the world. Still, it is possible for critical food shortages to exist over wide areas.

As long as anyone is hungry, this is cause for distress. Where is the responsibility for dealing with these problems, and how is it to be shared?

In the United States, we believe that food reserve obligations should be more widely shared among governments and industry groups throughout the world.

For a generation, our government—through the Commodity Credit Corporation—carried large inventories upon which commercial users both at home and abroad relied in lieu of carrying their own stocks. These stocks were accumulated as a byproduct of our farm price support system, not by design.

The U.S. government has now gone out of the commodity business, and we want to stay out of the business of managing stocks of farm products for the nation and the world.

Under Food for Peace—authorized by Public Law 480 just 20 years ago—the U.S. has provided over \$25 billion in commodities to needy countries through grants or on concessional terms.

We are eager to continue meeting our nation's humanitarian obligations, but we believe that other developed countries are equally able to share that responsibility.

This question of food aid responsibility and administration will be a key subject

at the World Food Conference scheduled for next November in Rome.

In the end, world food security comes down to the individual farmer. What does he need in order to produce—what techniques, what equipment, what incentives?

The farmer is a producer, but he is increasingly a consumer as well—of food, clothing, housing, education, health services for his family—mostly sold to him by other people, at a price.

If he is to produce farm commodities in exchange for those goods, there is a way that the economy can signal to him that his production is needed. That signal is price.

This is happening now, throughout the world. Economies are signaling to their farm producers that more agricultural goods are needed, and the producers are responding. In such a process, some prices may get out of line for a while, only to decline when large crops appear imminent.

Food is the international language. The initiatives that grew out of President Nixon's trips to Peking and Moscow have moved the United States into peaceful, commercial relationships with nations that account for 30 percent of the world's people and 60 percent of its land area.

People need each other. Nations need each other. They need to be at peace with each other. When trade grows, nations benefit. The diplomat follows the trader. Peace follows the shipping lanes. Freedom and dignity follow the full stomach.

Food, and trade, have become powerful forces for international diplomacy.

Thus we should not think of food entirely as a problem. We should think of it as an opportunity for the world's farmers and traders to build a new structure of peace in the world—joining East and West, developed and developing nations, the democratic societies and those of other beliefs. □

News

Canadian Ban On U.S. Beef Termed An "Embargo" □ Official "extreme disappointment" was expressed after Canada banned imports of live cattle and sheep—plus beef, lamb and mutton meat—that have not been officially certified as free of diethylstilbestrol (DES).

Clayton Yeutter, acting for Secretary Butz, said that the Canadian action

amounts to an embargo. He said:

"We regret that the Canadian government has imposed this ban in lieu of accepting the certification and monitoring system which we proposed.

"Canada has insisted that it can only accept certification by a full-time U.S. government employee who has periodically visited the ranches and feedlots from which the live animals or meat originate to ensure that DES has never been fed the animals to stimulate their growth.

"In our discussions with the Canadians, we stressed our belief that the only practical way of assuring that DES was not used is by having the owner certify to it. Thus, our proposal was to reinstate an owner certification program backed up by our own meat inspection activities, plus a Canadian government laboratory monitoring system to ensure that live animals and meats shipped into Canada from the U.S. are free of DES residues."

Net Weight Labeling Comment Period Extended □ The deadline has been extended to May 30 for consumers and other interested persons to submit comments on the USDA proposal to amend regulations covering the net weight statements on packages of meat and poultry products.

The original deadline was April 5, but the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service extended the deadline because of public interest.

Energy Management Responsibilities Delegated □ Secretary Butz has delegated responsibilities for energy management activities of the Department as follows:

Those activities related to people and organizations served by the Department will be coordinated through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. *Nicholas H. Smith* has been designated by ASCS as director of USDA energy management activities.

Those activities related to internal operations of USDA are assigned to the Assistant Secretary for Administration, *Joseph R. Wright Jr.*, with the Office of Operations designated as the action office.

Computerizing Wilderness Management □ Recently wilderness managers and researchers met in Missoula, Montana, in a workshop to learn how to use a Wilderness Travel Simulation Model developed by scientists from Resources for the Future, International Business Machines, and researchers at the Forest Service Forestry Science Laboratory on the University of Montana campus.

The simulator is a wilderness computer program that enables wilderness managers to try out new policies before they are placed in effect. It permits testing

of the results of limiting use at the most popular trailheads, building a new trail, or any one of hundreds of other possibilities.

The simulator will be field tested next year in the Desolation Wilderness, a heavily used area in California.

According to *Dr. Robert C. Lucas*, in charge of wilderness recreation research at Missoula, rangers will still ride horses and hike through backcountry to get the "feel" of the wilderness. "But the wilderness manager today has too much at stake to rely only on this backcountry approach. More scientific methods—such as the wilderness simulator—are needed to supplement his knowledge and judgment," Lucas said.

New Way Of Keeping Meat Fresh Longer Is Described □ A way of keeping meat fresh longer in the supermarket display case without affecting its safety or wholesomeness has been described by a USDA Scientist, *Dr. Robert C. Benedict*.

The method is still under study. It provides for a packet of powder to be inserted inside packages of fresh meat. The powder is a mixture of a nonvolatile acid (such as citric acid) and the salt of a volatile acid (such as sodium bicarbonate).

As moisture builds up within the package, the acid and salt react to give off carbon dioxide. Escaping through the pores of the packet, this protective gas fills the void spaces within the package, controlling most of the micro-organisms responsible for meat spoilage.

The principle is similar to that used for controlled-atmosphere storage in which apples and other fruits and vegetables are often kept for months in a room with high concentrations of carbon dioxide.

The method was developed at the Eastern Regional Research Center of the Agricultural Research Service, Philadelphia, Pa., by research scientists *Benedict, Elizabeth D. Strange, and Clifton E. Swift*.

Savings Bond Campaign Is May 1 to June 1 □ Secretary Butz has announced the annual U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign for the Department will be conducted throughout May. "Share a Common Bond" is the national theme for the 1974 campaign.

"Savings bonds do provide a 'common bond' between you and your government in more ways than one," said the Secretary. "For example, when you buy savings bonds you are assured of the return of your original investment plus 6 percent interest if the bonds are held to the 5-year maturity date. It is a comfortable feeling to know that your growing investment in savings bonds can be automatic, secure, constantly working for you and that it is there if and when you need it."

Gila Wilderness Celebration Coming □ Plans are moving ahead for the June 2 celebration of the golden anniversary of Wilderness at the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. The Gila Wilderness, the nation's first, will be the focal point of a national celebration.

Secretary Butz will be the featured speaker at the celebration.

The Man In The Saran Mask □ The USDA publication, *Agricultural Research*, has reported a solution to the hazards involved in removing 12-foot tall sugarcane samples from fields.

Experienced laborers, breeders, and selectors well know the vicious cutting and tearing action of the sawlike edges of sugarcane leaves.

The inexperienced soon learn to cover arms, legs, and hands completely when walking through standing or partially lodged sugarcane.

A major problem is protecting a worker's face without obstructing vision. Face protectors tried at the Agricultural Research Station in Houma, La. ranged from plastic shields worn by welders to masks of wire mesh. Cane leaves scratched the plastic, making it impossible to see through. Wire masks obstructed vision and were heavy.

Researchers at the Houma station, working with the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, came up with a saran green shade fabric which does not affect vision, is cool, comfortable, and sheds water.

Not only did the material—woven to provide 30 percent shade—prove successful in permitting good vision, but research technicians believe it should reduce significantly the number of eye injuries in future sugar cane selection seasons.

Fort Collins Computer Center Opened □ The USDA Computer Center at Fort Collins, Colo., was formally opened early in April, with Assistant Secretary for Administration *Joseph R. Wright Jr.*, taking part in the dedication.

The center which opened with a staff of 40 is one of four major computer installations established by USDA under the Office of Automated Data Systems. All are connected in a telecommunications network.

More Peanuts Per Person □ Consumption of shelled peanuts in running more than double the long-term growth rate of around 3 percent a year, the Economic Research Service reported recently.

Total use of edible peanuts in the marketing year to end in July is forecast at 1.8 billion pounds—100 million over the 1972-73 level. That works out to 8½ pounds per person and means we're now eating about 1½ pounds more than 10 years ago.

The demand may be tied to the higher price of other protein foods, including beef, poultry, and dairy products. Apparently consumers are switching to lower-priced substitutes like peanut butter.

Peanut butter and salted peanuts are credited with all of the jump in this year's peanut consumption. Use in candy and other products is down a bit.

Negotiations Underway For Building Mexican Screwworm Plant □ Mexican and U.S. officials are negotiating with contractors for construction of the main building of a facility in southern Mexico in which to produce more than 300 million sexually sterile screwworm flies each week.

The unique production plant is to be completed in 1975. Sterile flies from the plant will be released from aircraft over screwworm-infested areas of Mexico.

When the sterilized screwworm flies mate with native screwworms, the eggs that result are sterile, thus diminishing the insects' ability to multiply. The technique has been successful in the United States. It is expected to take several years to eliminate the pest from Mexico and thereby lessen the threat to U.S. livestock.

Midwest Rural Leaders School Set □ Rural community leaders from 12 Midwest states are being invited to apply for enrollment in the third national rural development leaders school.

The school, scheduled for June 2-8 at

the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, is open to residents of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The session is limited to 110 persons who will be selected to represent a broad segment of rural development leadership in Midwest communities and areas.

Soybean Task Force Sets Priorities □ Three top areas for soybean research in the South were determined at a recent meeting in Chattanooga, Tenn., of a joint task force on soybeans.

Priority areas are:
Increasing soybean yields through improved management systems.

Improving biological efficiency of the soybean plant through understanding of the interrelations of genetics and physiology.

Increasing soybean yields and economic returns through better pest management.

The task force was composed of USDA personnel and members from Southern agricultural experiment stations of the land-grant universities.

Advisory Committee Recommends Prompt Funding of Fleming Key Station □ The Foreign Animal and Poultry Disease Advisory Committee to USDA has urged expediting funding and construction of the proposed Fleming Key quarantine station. It suggested that the present authorization law be changed to provide for reimbursement of construction costs through collection of fees charged livestock owners utilizing the import facilities.

The proposed Fleming Key station would serve as a quarantine post for animals imported from countries infected with foot-and-mouth disease. Such importation is now banned.

People

Deputy Assistant Secretary □ *J. Paul Bolduc*, 34, formerly of Lewiston, Me., has been named deputy assistant secretary for administration. Prior to his new assignment, he was an assistant regional director with USDA's Office of Audit in Hyattsville, Md.

Handicapped Employee of the Year □ *Roy L. Zuvers*, blind computer programmer in Kansas City for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, has been named USDA's 1973 Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employee of the Year.

PREDICT YOUR FUTURE ... with U.S. Savings Bonds



TAURUS april 21-may 21

The practical, determined, acquisitive Taurus loves comfort, pleasure and beautiful things. You strive to possess whatever fulfills these needs. Your sound financial sense tells you that the practical way to save for the good things of life is with U.S. Savings Bonds through Payroll Savings.

Whey-Soy To The Rescue

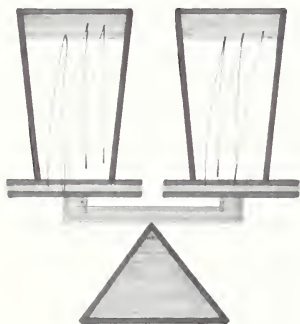
Mountains of farm surpluses can quickly melt into molehills, and so it went with our stockpile of nonfat dry milk, points out the USDA publication, *The Farm Index*.

The burdensome surplus of the fifties and sixties has disappeared with the steady falloff in milk production.

It came as a blow to dozens of countries who through the years had counted on our surplus of nonfat dry milk to feed millions of malnourished infants.

But the options were few for the administrators of the Food for Peace programs. Due to the shortage and the increased price of nonfat dry milk, they had no alternative but to strike it from the list of donated commodities.

That was in the spring of 1973. Now, less than a year later, a new beverage has come to the rescue. Dubbed "whey-soy drink mix," it will soon arrive on foreign shores, eventually to reach over 10 mil-



lion preschoolers, pregnant women, and nursing mothers in some 50 countries.

Whey-soy drink mix was made to order in a matter of months.

In early 1973, the Agency for International Development (AID) asked USDA and private industry to come up with a product that offered the same nutritious qualities as whole milk but which would cost less than nonfat dry milk to produce and send overseas.

Whey-soy, a version of which USDA dairy scientists had developed years before, more than filled the bill when it was presented to AID officials in July, 1973.

Economic Research Service researchers who were involved in the project report whey-soy costs less than 15 cents a quart in reconstituted form, including the charges to ship it overseas. From a nutritional standpoint, whey-soy is judged to be an excellent source of protein, vitamins, and minerals. Water added, whey-soy looks like rich milk with lots of cream. It has a slight soybean flavor.

The beverage also got the nod from the U.S. dairy industry. The industry is searching for outlets for whey, chief by-product of cheese production.

Sweet whey makes up 41 percent of the whey-soy formula, the other main ingredients being full fat soy flour (37 percent), soybean oil (12 percent), corn syrup solids (9 percent), and added vitamins and minerals (1 percent).

According to the Whey Products Institute, less than 45 percent of fluid whey - totaling over 30 billion pounds in 1970 - actually gets used.

As for the soybean, the other main ingredient in whey-soy, its virtues have been

widely acclaimed. Soybeans provide the most plentiful and least expensive source of high quality vegetable protein to be had.

Whey-soy performed well in the laboratory. After a number of private firms had refined the original USDA formula, the beverage got the green light from technicians and nutritionists.

There were experiments to assure whey-soy could withstand typical storage conditions overseas. It had to keep without significant deterioration or loss of nutritional value.

But would kids like whey-soy beverage?

In what was perhaps the most extensive series of tests ever run for a product introduced in the Food for Peace programs, Natick Laboratories of the U.S. Army and two consultants of USDA were commissioned to try whey-soy on location. Selected for the projects were Chile, the Dominican Republic, South Vietnam, India, Pakistan, and Sierra Leone.

After conducting over 4,000 tests with children and 2,000 with parents and staffs of feeding centers, the test team concluded there was a "high probability" that preschool feeding programs would take to whey-soy.

Only in Sierra Leone in Africa did whey-soy get an unfavorable reception. The test team reported this was probably because most children had been accustomed to eating nonfat dry milk in dry form in porridge, and the novelty of a beverage product may have turned them off.

Companies in the U.S. are now gearing up to make whey-soy in quantities that Food for Peace officials believe will be needed by poorer countries in years to come. □

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Golden Anniversary Of Wilderness To Be Celebrated

A golden anniversary will be observed the first week in June—50 years of Wilderness.

On June 3, 1924, the Forest Service set aside the Nation's first tract of virtually untouched National Forest land, identified this naturalness as a resource, and called it wilderness.

The first was the Gila Wilderness—750,000 acres of the Gila

National Forest near Silver City in southwestern New Mexico.

When the golden anniversary of Wilderness is observed June 2 near Silver City, Secretary Butz will be featured speaker.

He will be joined on the speakers stand at the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument by New Mexico Governor Bruce King, Forest Service Chief John McGuire, and Sig Olson of Ely, Minn., former president of the Wilderness Society. Entertainer Arthur Godfrey will be Master of Ceremonies.

Throughout June, Post Office cancellation marks reading "1924-74 Wilderness, Golden Anniversary, Forest Service -

USDA" will be used in Albuquerque, New York, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington, and El Paso. Special cachet envelopes will be issued at Silver City.

For a century before the Gila Wilderness came into being, farsighted naturalists and poets warned of the impending loss of all ties with the primitive past.

But nothing was done until Forest Service officers of the Southwestern Region acting on the eloquent pleas of a colleague, Aldo Leopold, and the authority of Regional Forester Frank C.W. Pooler, closed a portion of the Gila to any development that would change its natural character.



Looking west at the big valley of the Gila as it flows into the Gila Wilderness Area beyond. The word "Gila" was coined by

Spanish explorers who came to the area in 1539. The Yuma Indians called the river Hah-quah-sa-eel (running salty

water) with the accent on the last syllable. The Spanish shortened this and Gila (pronounced HE-la) evolved.

Following this, with the support of concerned citizens' groups and individuals, the Forest Service during the next four decades identified and applied special protection and management to 15 million acres in 89 wilderness and primitive areas which are similarly managed—almost all the Wilderness areas that exist today.

The first Wilderness plan was written by John D. Jones of the Forest Service. In a 1965 interview he recalled that "it was about a paragraph and a half long. We made it fairly simple because we didn't know just how far we could go."

Those few words grew into USDA regulations and then into law in 1964 when Congress passed the Wilderness Act. Wilderness, said the law, "in contrast to those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Today, as in 1924, that part of New Mexico is sparsely populated and serene. From the air the forested mountains form a large area of darkness on the earth surrounded by pinyon- and juniper-speckled rangeland and finally broad expanses of sand colored desert grassland.

Between 4,800- to 11,000-foot elevation ranges, vegetation varies from cactus to fir. It is a land of sheer-walled canyons, towering rock pillars, and vast areas of ponderosa pine broken occasionally by natural open parks.

Until six million years ago, it was a land of violent volcanic activity that scrambled the landscape. This period of mountain building was comparatively recent, viewed in geologic time.

The wildlife of the region is much the same today as it was 25,000 years ago. Recent additions to the extinct list are the wolf, grizzly bear, Merriam's elk and river otter. The last Merriam's elk was taken for food about 1900, the last wolf in 1921, and the last grizzly in 1933.

Still abundantly present are black bear, deer, fox, badger, skunk, weasel, mountain lion, and many other species. And Yellowstone elk have been transplanted to the area.

According to the archeologists, men first entered the Gila country about 10,000 years ago. They were nomadic hunters. About 2,300 years ago they learned pottery making and began to settle permanently. The pueblo-type houses—cliff dwellings—appeared about 1,000 A.D.

They were no longer inhabited, however, by the time the Apaches began to appear in the 13th century.

The European influence in the area began slowly. Following some initial exploration, the Spanish and later the Mexicans showed little interest except for the copper mines at Santa Rita near Silver City. Not until the early 19th century did American trappers begin to work the area.

Major reason for the lack of interest was the feared Apaches. The Apache policy toward outsiders was simple: Indians did not wear hats. Americans and Mexicans did. The enemy was anyone wearing a hat.

As the Indian menace faded in the 1890's, more settlers came, mining towns and ranches grew and outlaws appeared.

But the wild days dimmed quickly as civilization moved west. Only the wild country remained unchanged.

The Gila Wilderness and the other Wilderness areas throughout the United States will remain untouched—natural museums displaying America as it was before man began to harness nature. □

News

Asian Leaders Respond To World Food Situation □ Asian leaders meeting in Manila with Secretary Butz in April agreed to the necessity of responding to the new world food situation, according to a report in the USDA publication, *Foreign Agriculture*.

They are accepting responsibility for giving more information on how much agricultural production they will need from year to year.

And they are agreeing that they must stockpile agricultural products they need—or do some advance buying in the United States and other food exporting countries.

During his Asian trip, Secretary Butz made the point that Asia is our No. 1 agricultural export market.

This means the U.S. must accept the responsibility for having adequate supplies to meet the demand. In order to do this, the U.S. must have a farm program and farm policy direction which will make it possible for U.S. farmers to produce the supplies of crops needed for growing export markets and for growing markets at home, the Secretary pointed out.

Interest High In Artificial Fireplace Logs □ Agricultural Research Service

reports continued interest in the peanut hull log developed by ARS.

One company is already manufacturing the peanut hull log in a Suffolk, Va., plant. At least two others are taking final steps to establish manufacturing facilities in Georgia and Alabama.

Because of this continued interest, ARS is evaluating various cellulosic materials for use as artificial logs.

Initial results indicate that ground corn cobs, cotton gin waste and peat moss are satisfactory fillers. When compounded with an equal weight of hydrocarbon wax, all made logs that compared favorably with the peanut hull log in ease of lighting, clean burning characteristics, and burning time.

Because of the petroleum supply problem, some concern has been expressed about the long-term availability of slack waxes which are petroleum by-products used in manufacturing the log. Investigations are being made of various wax combinations and other ingredients, such as tall oil pitch (available from wood pulp operations).

Industry personnel interested in the artificial fireplace log believe it is not a passing fancy. Agricultural wastes and by-products heretofore discarded and sometimes pollution-causing may be transformed into useful commercial products.

Slide Show On Energy Conservation □ "Fuel for Food" is a 94-frame slide set and filmstrip recently released by USDA. It urges Americans to continue to conserve gasoline and other forms of energy so farmers will be assured of a dependable supply to meet the food needs for this country.

The presentation is designed to help consumers understand the relationship between the energy used in their daily routine and the energy needed to grow their food supply. It was developed with the aid of the University of Wisconsin.

The slide set can be purchased for \$25 from the Photography Division, Office of Communication, USDA, Washington D.C. 20250. Order the filmstrip for \$11.50 from Photo Lab., Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011. Price includes two copies of an illustrated narrative guide and a soundtrack on cassette pulsed with both 1,000 Hz and 50 Hz signals to changes slides automatically when proper equipment is used.

New System To Be Ready For Forest Fire Emergencies □ A new program of military assistance in fighting forest fires will be available this fire season through a project called Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS).

MAFFS involves a series of five tanks, each on its own pallet, which can be loaded into the cargo compartment of an Air Force C-130 aircraft. The tanks are

connected, loaded with fire retardant chemicals and pressurized. With this new setup, a 3,000 gallon load of retardant can be discharged through nozzles extended from the aircraft's rear door.

The equipment was developed through combined efforts of the U.S. Air Force and the Forest Service. A contract has been let for manufacture of seven units and auxiliary equipment at a cost of about \$1.4 million. Two units are to be available in time for use this fire season.

The Forest Service currently operates a program using contract air tankers which are sufficient for most forest fire situations, but the MAFFS units will be available to supplement the contract tankers in times of extreme emergencies.

***** savenergy *****

Assistant Secretary for Administration Joseph R. Wright, Jr. reminds all employees about the continuing need for energy conservation in the following memorandum:

"We no longer have an immediate energy crisis; however, as a nation we are still faced with a long-term shortage of energy. Until the country becomes energy self-sufficient, all of us as citizens must be prudent in our use of energy.

"As federal employees we have a special responsibility to set an example for the nation. Here in USDA, we have already set a good example. We have reduced lighting, lowered the heat, reduced travel and vehicle speed and greatly increased our use of carpools. All these measures have resulted in some inconvenience to each of you.

"We must continue these efforts. With the onset of warm weather, air-conditioning thermostats will be raised to a range of 78 to 80 degrees. Uniform temperature levels in our buildings will not be attained immediately but problems will be corrected as quickly as possible.

"With the increase in temperatures, some easing of dress standards may be appropriate. We count on your good judgment. Cooler clothing need not detract from our effectiveness in serving the public.

"We can all be proud of the cooperative and patriotic attitude shown by the people in this Department. We appreciate your continued cooperation and understanding."

***** savenergy *****

During the heavy forest fire period last year, a MAFFS prototype was tested and evaluated, with 24 drops made on fires in Montana, Idaho, and California. Forest Service Chief *John R. McGuire* said results were very favorable.

Modified Soap Washes Clean In Hard Water □ Soap can be modified to make it wash just as clean in hard water as in soft water. So reported research chemist *Raymond G. Bistline* speaking before the American Oil Chemists' Society meeting in Mexico City.

The modified soap was developed at the Agricultural Research Service eastern regional research center in Philadelphia. Studies on the new soap were made by *Bistline, Susan M. Jones, Wilfred R. Noble, and James K. Weil*, under the supervision of *Dr. Warner M. Linfield*.

Photographs magnified 600 times with a scanning electron microscope showed fabric washed in hard water with ordinary soap had heavy deposits of calcium and magnesium soap formed on the fibers. No such deposits were visible in comparable pictures taken of fabric washed with soap containing a chemical called a lime-soap dispersing agent. The chemical prevents curd formation.

The modification overcomes the only important limitation of soap—its relative inefficiency in hard water because of scum formation.

Made from constantly replenishable agricultural raw materials and both safe and biodegradable, the new soap may lessen the nation's dependence on detergents, most of which are made from petroleum and contain phosphates.

Erwin Reports On Rural Development □ Speaking before the Newspaper Farm Editors, Assistant Secretary *Will Erwin* reported the Department is chalking up a good record in meeting new rural development obligations handed it by the Congress.

The Rural Development Act of 1972 gave USDA responsibility for assisting small towns and the nonfarm countryside in developmental efforts.

Rural housing loans have increased from \$507 million in 1969 to \$1,858 million during the current fiscal year. Sewer, water, and other community facility loans are budgeted at \$520 million for the upcoming year as compared with \$198 million in 1969.

Congress set a ceiling of \$200 million in fiscal 1974 on new business and industry guaranteed loans, "but we have requested twice that for fiscal 1975," Erwin reported.

"Organizationally, we are in good shape with a USDA Rural Development Committee functioning in every state and in most local areas either at the county or regional level. The Extension Service has over 600 rural development specialists

helping rural people meet their developmental challenges," he said.

"But the surface of need is only scratched," Erwin said. "Our goal is to help local communities help themselves using the private sector where possible."

"Rural America still has over one-half of the nation's substandard housing. Many communities are still withering. And thousands of communities have sewer, water, and other community facility problems to solve before they can develop otherwise. There are many other needs to be met.

"But the machinery for helping rural people meet these needs is operating effectively. We can feel good about the future of Rural Development."

People

Assistant Secretary Sworn

□ *Richard L. Feltner* took the oath of office as Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Consumer Services on April 24. Dr. Feltner, 35, has been professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Illinois since August 1970.

Director Of Audit □ *Leonard H. Greess*, former acting inspecting

general, became the Department's director of audit on April 28. He joined USDA in 1962 when the Office of Inspector General was organized. Earlier this year that office was replaced by the Office of Audit and the Office of Investigation.

Director of Office of Investigation

□ *John V. Graziano* was named director of the Office of Investigation, thus becoming on April 29 the first permanent director of the new office, which was created through the division of USDA's Office of Inspector General into two separate functions. Graziano has served 22 years in federal government security and investigations work, most recently with the Department of Transportation.

JACS Volunteer of the Year □ *Ted M. Duda*, a resource administrative

assistant for the Sierra National Forest in California, recently was selected as Volunteer of the Year from the western states for his work with Job Corps graduates under the Joint Action in Community Service (JACS) program. Together with nine others he was presented the award by Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan at a luncheon in Washington, D.C.

Person to Person

Three seniors in the chemical engineering department of Tulane University have been working with scientists at the USDA Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans in pursuit of an economical continuous process to extract protein isolates from edible cottonseed flour.

Scientists at the Center have already developed a batch method for extracting the isolates from cottonseed flour, according to research engineer *James J. Spadaro*.

He explained, however, that "before the

protein isolate can be produced commercially, a continuous process must be found to make it economically practical."

The three student engineers have worked with USDA scientists in attempting to develop such a process.

"Utilization of cottonseed protein for food could greatly enrich American diets," said Dr. Robert Chambers, associate professor of chemical engineering and Tulane faculty advisor for the project. He added that during the project the students have been learning how to use academic tools in a practical work situation.

Spadaro, who heads the food engineering

research at the Center, said "the protein isolates could be used to fortify many popular foods that are now low in protein, such as breakfast cereals and snack items such as corn chips, candies and cookies."

The students have worked with the USDA scientists under a formal memorandum of understanding between the Agricultural Research Service and Tulane University to enable students to work in a research situation while still under the guidance of the university faculty.

USDA research engineers leading the projects were Spadaro and *Joseph Pominski*.

Tulane University chemical engineering seniors Rafael Alfonzo, standing, James C. Butler, center, and Kenneth O. McElrath, right, discuss operation of a solids-liquid blender with ARS research

engineer Joseph Pominski, left. Working at the ARS Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans has been part of the students' training.



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Timber for 2000

In this age of plastic and synthetics one might expect the demand for more traditional raw materials such as wood to taper off. But not so. Timber experts predict a 75 percent increase in the demand for timber products between now and the year 2000.

With public forests under increasing pressures to emphasize non-timber uses and industrial forests nearing capacity production, where's all that wood going to come from?

The U. S. Forest Service says that some of the increased production will come from better utilization of the timber already being harvested. By harvesting more of the tree than is now taken, reducing logging residues in the woods, and changing sawmill practices, timber production from our National Forests and from commercial timberlands owned by the forest industry can be greatly increased.

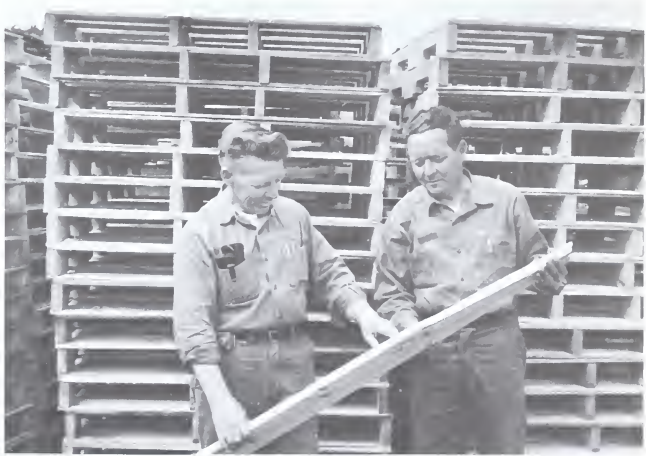
Our best opportunities for meeting the need for increased timber supplies in the future, however, lies with small, private forest landowners.

Private forest landowners hold 59 percent of the Nation's commercial timberland. National Forests account for 18 percent, forest industries own 14 percent, and other public lands make up the remaining 9 percent. Forestry experts estimate that private woodlands are producing only about half the timber they are capable of.

Traditionally, the owners of these small timber holdings have not been willing to make the investments necessary to raise timber as an agricultural commodity. Unlike most agricultural enterprises, wood production takes years. Economic benefits from forestry investments made today may not be seen for 20, 30 or more years.

Federal cost-sharing programs are now available to small woodlot owners to provide the incentive for them to invest in timber production.

The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-86) authorized a Rural Environmental Conservation Pro-



Between now and the year 2000, timber experts expect that our demand for wood for building, wood pulp, manufacturing,

and other uses will increase 75 percent. Where will the supply come from?

gram (RECP) to provide cost sharing for soil and water conservation practices and for forestry incentives.

In 1974, one of the RECP programs is a specialized Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) that focuses sharply on increasing timber production from areas where the timber production potential is high. Only two forestry practices—tree planting and timber stand improvement—qualify for cost-sharing under FIP. Although all 50 states will get some FIP cost-sharing money, distribution has been made only within counties designated by state foresters as having good timber sites.

Operating simultaneously with the new RECP is the 1973 Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP). RECP has a more general conservation purpose. Like FIP, it provides for the cost sharing of forestry practices. Unlike FIP, it emphasizes resource conservation values over timber production. RECP funds may be offered in all counties. A forestry practice may be cost shared under RECP when cost sharing under

FIP would be ruled out because the area lacked sufficient potential to grow and produce quality timber.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Forest Service are providing administrative and technical support for these forestry incentives programs. ASCS, through its network of county offices is helping to publicize the programs among forest landowners.

Since timber production is a long-range proposition, it will be a number of years before forestry experts can evaluate the effect of the incentives program on timber supplies. Thinning and stand improvement practices could produce more timber in as few as 5 years. From the planting of seedlings to the harvest of timber, however, would require 15 to 30 years or more. Forestry experts hope that the cost-sharing programs will "prime the pump," so to speak, and encourage forest landowners to continue good forestry practices on their own, assuring adequate timber supplies in the years to come. □



The U.S. Forest Service says that the best opportunity for increasing our wood supplies with better management

of the 296-million acres of woodlands held by small, non-industrial owners.

News

Annuities Increase □ The Consumer Price Index rose over 3 percent in February, March, and April of this year, triggering a 6.4 percent increase in Civil Service annuities, effective July 1, 1974.

USDA employees who retired before the effective date will get the increase automatically. In addition, any employee retiring on or after July 1 but before the effective date of any subsequent cost-of-living increase is guaranteed that his or her annuity won't be less than what it would be if computed on service and pay as of June 30, 1974, plus the 6.4 percent increase.

See your personnel office if you have any detailed questions concerning retirement or annuities.

National Farm Safety Week □ President Nixon has proclaimed the week of July 25 as National Farm Safety Week, pointing out that each year farm accidents produce serious injuries and result in the loss of thousands of lives.

The proclamation not only urges farm and ranch people to take needed safety precautions, but also asks those who work with and serve farm and ranch people to support them in accident-reducing efforts.

Secretary Butz has reported that plans for the coming year call for renewed USDA emphasis on rural safety, and he called upon every employee to emphasize farm and home safety all during National Farm Safety Week and throughout the year.

Campground Fees Are Back □ Some 2,000 of the 5,000 campgrounds in the 187-million-acre National Forest System are charging fees again this summer. Charges will range from \$1 to \$4 per camp unit per day.

Fee collections for most campgrounds were eliminated last year in an action by Congress, but a new bill (P.L. 93-303) amended the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to reinstate them. Fees can now be charged at campgrounds with tent or trailer spaces, drinking water, access roads, refuse containers, toilet facilities, and devices for containing campfires.

Bound for China □ A team of 10 leading U.S. plant scientists chosen by the National Academy of Science's Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China

will visit mainland China for 4 weeks beginning August 27. The team's objectives are to learn more about Chinese crop production and the organization of Chinese agriculture; to observe activities in the collection and use of native plant genetic resources and discuss possible germ-plasm exchange; and to identify opportunities for subsequent cooperation in agricultural and related sciences.

Glenn Burton, John Creech, and Richard Bernard of USDA's Agricultural Research Service are members of the 10-man team.

Preliminary Report on the Bond Drive □ In a preliminary report on the 1974 USDA Savings Bonds Drive, Joseph R. Wright, assistant secretary for administration and co-chairman of the drive, states that the campaign shows good progress.

Farmers Home Administration is in a class by itself with 96 percent participation. The Office of Equal Opportunity shows the greatest gain, rising from 45 to 87 percent participation. Agencies which have reached or exceeded the 80 percent participation goal are the Farmers Home Administration, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Soil Conservation Service, and the Food and Nutrition Service. Final Department standings will be tallied as of June 30.

Employees who started their bond buying programs during the campaign now total 2,271 and existing buyers who increased their allotments total 4,161. "The approximate two to one ratio of those who increased their buying to new enrollments is an impressive testimonial to the worth of U.S. Savings Bonds as an investment," notes Wright.

The assistant secretary urges all employees who are not participating to reconsider their decision and reminds all agencies to invite new permanent employees to join the U.S. Savings Bonds buying program.

Energy Slides □ Conservation of our energy resources is the message of a new slide set and filmstrip just released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. *Fuel for Food* is a 94-frame presentation that urges Americans to continue to conserve gasoline and other forms of energy so farmers will be assured of a dependable supply to meet the food needs for this country.

The slide set can be purchased for \$25 from the Photography Division, Office of Communication, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Order the filmstrip for \$11.50 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011.

People

New Head for NAL □ Dr. Richard A. Farley was recently named director of USDA's National Agricultural Library.

Farley came to USDA from the McGill University library system in Montreal, Canada, and has formerly worked with land-grant universities in Kansas and Nebraska.

New Face on the Secretary's Staff □ Robert McMillan has joined USDA as Secretary Butz's staff assistant for public affairs. McMillan was previously executive assistant to the New Jersey secretary of agriculture.

New Assistant Director for Lab □ Dr. William H. Tallent was recently named assistant director at USDA's Northern Regional Research Laboratory, an agency of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Since 1969, Tallent has been chief of the industrial crops research at the Peoria facility.

Outstanding Young Scientist □ Dr. E. C. Franklin of the Forest Service's Southeastern Experiment Station was recently named one of 10 outstanding young men to receive the 1974 Arthur S. Flemming Awards. Franklin, Principal Plant Geneticist and Project Leader at the Station's Naval Stores and Timber Production Laboratory, received the award for his research on breeding pines rich in resin, tall oil, and sulfate turpentine.

Outstanding Mother □ Mrs. Barbara McGrath was recently selected as the National Multiple Sclerosis Mother of the Year. Though confined to a wheelchair, Mrs. McGrath plays a prominent part in community affairs and is an active housewife and mother of two boys. Her husband, George McGrath, Jr., is with the Soil Conservation Service in Washington, D.C.

Scientist Named Chief of Staff □ Colonel William E. Shaklee was recently appointed Chief of Staff for the Army Reserve's 352d Civil

Affairs Area in Maryland and Delaware. When in civvies, Shaklee is Acting Director of the Cooperative State Research Service's Animal Science Program.

Viet Advisor Honored Posthumously □ The Secretary's Award, the highest award given by the State Department, was recently presented posthumously to Thomas W. Ragsdale, a USDA agricultural advisor assigned to the Agency for International Development.

Ragsdale was working in Thua Thien Province in South Vietnam when the Tet offensive erupted in 1968. He died as a prisoner of war while marching from South to North Vietnam in March of that year.

Department Was Big Winner in New Orleans □ USDA employees won six of the eight non-military distinguished service awards given by the New Orleans Federal Business Association at its 4th Federal Business Awards Program.

The winners and their award categories were: Albert L. Jennings, ARS, wage grade; Patricia G. Sanford, ARS, clerical; Dr. Harold P. Dupuy, ARS, medical and scientific; Mary A. Bialas, FS, business professional; Joseph L. Relf, ARS, technical; and Perry Tillman III, National Finance Center, outstanding handicapped employee.

Dr. Gilbert E. Goheen, ARS; Liles L. Sanchez, National Finance Center; and Paul Tyler, Sr., AMS, were among the 28 military and non-military Federal employees who received honorable mention.

Technician Honored □ Ernest Ashcraft, Soil Conservation Service Technician, was recently named Outstanding Federal Technician of the Year in the Charleston, S.C., area by the Federal Executive Association.

Good Scouts □ The Gulf Coast Council No. 773, Boy Scouts of America, of Pensacola, Fla., recently received the Department's Gold Seal Conservation Award for 1973.

The Council was cited for conservation practices carried out on the 975-acre Spanish Trail Scout Reservation and for its leadership in Project SOAR (Save Our American Resources) and in KAB (Keep America Beautiful).

Person to Person

When *Isabel Najera* left Laredo, Tex., 17 years ago, she wanted two things—a job in the big city and the chance to see some of the world.

As an overseas secretary in USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, Isabel has achieved both goals. As the first Spanish-speaking employee in FAS to be assigned overseas, Isabel believes that her Spanish-American background and her Spanish fluency were definite assets in securing that first overseas assignment.

"Language training is so important for overseas work," says Isabel who has landed jobs in Brazil, Venezuela, and Guyana.

Before joining USDA, Isabel worked as a secretary for private firms in various U.S. cities. She also worked for a U.S. corporation in Georgetown, Guyana.

"Georgetown was very small," Isabel recalls. "It was while I was there that I

realized that I wanted to live and work in a larger city."

Her preference for city life and her hopes for obtaining another overseas assignment brought Isabel to FAS in 1969. After a year she was assigned to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

"I had a marvelous experience in Rio," Isabel remembers. "The city was so exciting; it was everything I had expected. It was hard for me to leave."

Nevertheless, she left Rio in order to help move the office of the agricultural attache to Brazil's new capital, Brasilia.

"That was a very good experience for me, work-wise," she says. "The local professionals, who normally do all of the research for the attache and his assistants, didn't come with us to Brasilia."

"I got the chance to do a lot of the work the local professionals would have done otherwise."

Isabel enjoyed researching questions for the attache because she became more directly involved with the work done by

the attache system. She helped put reports together, rather than simply typing them.

Another benefit of the move from Rio to Brasilia was that Isabel improved her command of Portuguese, a learning experience made easier by her fluency in Spanish.

Currently, Isabel is secretary in the office of the agricultural attache at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela.

"I like the big-city atmosphere in Caracas," she said during a recent overseas call. The cost of living is high—"You have to be willing to live from paycheck to paycheck," she laughs—but she is convinced that the fast pace and excitement of urban living more than compensate for its drawbacks.

And what of the future? Isabel, who once never imagined living in Rio, now sets no limits on where she would like to work. She wants to continue working overseas for FAS, and hopes to add new cities to the list of places she has called home.



Isabel Najera and Assistant Agricultural Attache Richard Barnes consult on work for the Office of the Agricultural Attache in the U. S. Embassy at Caracas.

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Bonnie Kreiter, Editor.

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Volume 33
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September 4, 1974

Secretary Discusses

Leadership Change

With Employees

In a speech to employees following the swearing-in of President *Gerald R. Ford*, Secretary *Butz* told Washington-area USDA personnel "that if ever there was any doubt about the ability of our people under our constitutional form of government to weather a public political crisis of the kind we've been through and come up standing on our feet, that has been demonstrated this week.

"This is a fairly unique event in the course of human history," the Secretary pointed out, "to change leadership in a nation as we have changed after the very traumatic experience that we've been through, a soul searching experience, an experience that has eroded the confidence of vast numbers of our people in the very democratic process by which we govern ourselves. This is extremely unfortunate.

"You and I are in government. We're in government, most of us, because we do serve a noble cause. Those of us who sit here today know that the great bulk of people in government are decent, honest, God-fearing, highly dedicated, hard-working people. One of the jobs we have, in a Department like this that reaches out to the grassroots of America, is to help restore confidence in government. And I know we will welcome the opportunity to do that."

In discussing what the new attitude of the White House is likely to be toward agricultural issues, Butz speculated that there would not be much change. "The new President was a part of the legislation we now have," the Secretary pointed out. "He approves of our effort to feed hungry people. He's been a part of that in the Congress. I think he approves of what we're doing. He's a man of the soil. Beyond that, he's a man who has basic faith in America."

Butz also remarked that President Ford has worked with the Civil Service and has a high regard for it. The Secretary said that he expects to see the new President's knowledge of the Civil Service reflected in future actions coming out of the White House.

Butz went on to express disappointment that the news media have ignored "the

Ford Visits Agriculture

Despite a heavy snowstorm, then Vice President Ford visited the Department of Agriculture early last February for a break-fast briefing on agriculture.

Mr. Ford first met with Department executives, including Counselor to the Secretary Thomas K. Cowden (left), in the Secretary's office.

Mr. Ford came to find out a little more about USDA's activities, and since he didn't have the time to walk a mile in Secretary Butz's shoes, he tried the next best thing—sitting awhile in the Secretary's chair.

Then it was down the elevator and a short walk through USDA's main cafeteria to the

more



history of good" in this country. "But it's been written every day," the Secretary declared. "Our job now is to convince our people that this is a good Nation, a great Nation, a Nation of opportunity. It is a Nation where those of us who are responsible for food and fiber and the natural resources will make sure that the Nation is well fed, will make sure that we do take care of our resources, will make sure that we do expand opportunities for many and for recreation and wholesome living among our people.

"We've just been through a crisis in this country. A crisis that shook our very foundation. It's past us now. But there's a job now for all of us in government, and I think especially for those of us in the USDA—those of us in this Department that Abraham Lincoln said, when he founded it, would be a people's department.

"This is a time if ever there was a time for us, each one, to assume a sense of responsibility and leadership and let people abroad know that we have faith in America, that we have faith in this political and economic experiment now nearly 200 years old. We're going to demonstrate that by doing the very best we can on our job here." □

News

No Money for FY '75? □ In his speech to employees following the swearing-in of President Ford, *Secretary Butz* devoted a portion of his remarks to a discussion of USDA's fiscal 1975 budget.

The Secretary noted that USDA has been operating under a continuing resolution since July 1 and that the fiscal 1975 agricultural appropriations bill had recently been vetoed.

But the Secretary pointed out that this veto had been expected. "The administration has come down hard on the side of fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget," Butz said, and had given notice that appropriations that exceeded the administration's recommendations would face a veto on the basis that they were inflationary.

The agriculture bill, Butz said, was the first appropriations bill sent up to the White House by Congress, and it exceeded the administration's fiscal '75 budget recommendations by some \$139 million. Escalating features of the bill would have pushed the amount in excess of the recommendations even higher in fiscal '76.

"This doesn't mean panic and disorder for the Department," the Secretary emphasized. Butz says the Department will either continue its business under a continuing resolution or a revised budget will be submitted by Congress. The Secretary noted that he's talked with congressional leaders and that they are interested in following the latter course as expeditiously as possible.

Drought Reduces Harvest

Predictions □ Hot and prolonged dry weather over much of the Nation has slowed row crop growth and led to a reduction in expected 1974 production.

The first forecast by the Statistical Reporting Service's Crop Reporting Board places 1974 corn production at 4,966 million bushels—12 percent below last year's crop, but still the fourth largest on record.

At a recent press conference USDA Staff Economist *Dawson Ahalt* pointed out that August rains which have fallen since the survey on which the forecast was based may increase the corn harvest somewhat.

The economist noted that sorghum grain production is forecast at 619 million bushels, 34 percent less than last year's record crop and 24 percent less than 1972.



Ford—from page 1
executive dining room for breakfast. On the way, Mr. Ford stopped to greet employees, including Edith Clark (center) and Rosellyn Hughes (right) of the Forest Service.

During breakfast, Mr. Ford was briefed on agency activities, agricultural issues, and ag legislation before Congress.

Whether the weather, when breakfast was over it was back out into the snowstorm for Mr. Ford, and on to the completion of another busy day.



Over all, total feed grain production (corn, sorghum, oats, and barley combined) is forecast at 175 million tons or 15 percent less than the 1973 harvest.

On a more positive note, Ahalt said that the production forecast for all wheat is up 8 percent from 1973, and that the production of all food grains (wheat, rye, and rice collectively) is expected to rise 8 percent above the 1973 harvest.

Soybean production is forecast at 1,314 million bushels, the second largest crop on record, but 16 percent below last year's record crop.

Responding to questions from the news media, Ahalt said that he did not expect the reduced feed grain harvest to materially affect food prices in 1974. He agreed, however, that there may be some increase in food prices from now through the end of the year.

The USDA economist felt that lower 1974 crop production would exert heavier upward pressure on food prices in 1975. Ahalt said that a cutback in poultry and hog numbers could be expected in 1975 because of higher feed grain prices. But noting that there has been a trend away from grain-fed cattle in recent months, the economist predicted that the feed grain situation would have little effect on beef production.

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He did point out, however, that drought in Texas, Oklahoma, and the Southwest would likely force some liquidation of the cow herds maintained on grass in those areas. This would result in lower beef prices this fall, but higher prices in 1975 as supplies tightened.

If We Eat Less, Will They Eat More? □ *Will Erwin*, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, recently told the Ohio Cattlemen's Association that "the rising crescendo of voices calling for a cutback in U.S. meat consumption so as to release grain for world food assistance is ill-advised and, among other things, shows a lack of understanding of the grass and roughage utilization function of ruminants—cattle and sheep.

"I predict Americans will eat more, not less, meat.

"Consumers could insist that government exert price interference or otherwise interfere with meat production, export and import patterns. But they are too wise to do that. Experience taught them that it's to their advantage to allow the marketplace to perform its normal function."

Assistant Secretary Erwin pointed out that U.S. farmers will increase corn, soybean, and wheat production by 50, 44, and 35 percent respectively by 1985 and that the nation's beef herd will be 44 percent larger by that time.

And, he said, "This country is already making an enormous contribution toward meeting world food demand. We currently export the production from one U.S. acre in four—exporting 75 percent of the wheat crop, 60 percent of our soybeans, and 35 percent of the corn crop."

Agricultural Service Centers □ USDA has identified 56 locations for pilot agricultural service centers in 31 states and has issued operating guidelines for sharing facilities, equipment, and common services.

As State Administrative Committees indicate the best places for service centers in their home territory, USDA has moved to implement one-stop agricultural services at these sites. Many of the locations identified so far are in counties where USDA agencies already have offices housed together. In these cases, creation of an agricultural service center means taking this co-location one step farther so that USDA units also share equipment and common services.

Among the first centers to initiate operations were Shelby, Mont., and Palmer, Alaska. Centers locations identified in the initial group indicate the broad geographic representation the program has achieved. These include Waco, Tex.; Ripley, W. Va.; Columbus, Neb.; Middlebury, Vt.; Gainesville, Fla.; and Aberdeen, S.D.

Open Dating For Meat and Poultry □ American consumers will soon find more precise open dating information on packaged meat and poultry to assist them in determining the freshness of these products on food market shelves.

Nancy H. Steorts, special assistant to the secretary of agriculture for consumer affairs, recently announced that meat and poultry processors who voluntarily elect to put a calendar date—rather than a coded date—on their products must let consumers know what that date means. The move is designed to eliminate the present confusion over product dating.

Under USDA's newly amended federal meat and poultry regulations, the calendar date will have to be identified as a *packing date*, *sell by date*, or *use before date*. These dates may be qualified by such terms as "for maximum freshness," or similar terms.

Who's Next? □ If the Secretary of Agriculture leaves town for a few days, gets sick, resigns, or dies, who takes over as the Department's leader?

There's a prescribed order of succession which puts the Under Secretary of Agriculture first in line to act as Secretary.

If he's not available for the job, then the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs fills the acting slot. After him comes the Assistant Secretary for Rural Development; then the Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research, and Education; then the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Consumer Affairs; and finally the General Counsel.

If none of the above are available, then the Department is considered cancelled for lack of interest (editor's note).

People

Temporary Coordinator For Minor Use Pesticides □ *Kenneth C. Walker*, assistant to the administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, has been designated coordinator for minor use pesticides.

Walker will work directly with members of USDA, the state agricultural experiment stations, EPA, the Inter-regional Project Number 4, the chemical industry and others. He will develop recommendations for future programs and will assess the need for a permanent coordinator.

Employee of the Year □ *John E. (Jack) Boren, III*, Kistachie National Forest Criminal Investigator, was named Federal Employee of the Year by the Rapides Parish, La., Federal Executive Association.

Person to Person

For 25 years, plant geneticists *Richard T. Bingham* has been a firm believer in the future of western white pine and the ultimate success of cooperative work by land managers and scientists to defeat epidemic blister rust attacks on the species.

Blister rust is believed to have migrated to the U.S. from Europe at the turn of the century. Widespread damage and destruction to the stately western white pine by the disease has caused many foresters to write off the species as "uneconomic to manage."

This spring Bingham witnessed a rewarding confirmation of his beliefs and the value of work by fellow scientists at the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station and elsewhere. Forest Service administrators, scientists, and academic cooperators gathered in Northern Idaho to dedicate the Richard

T. "Dick" Bingham White Pine Plantation, the first commercial plantation of genetically improved, blister-rust-resistant, white pine seedlings in the five-state Northern Region of the Forest Service.

The University of Idaho forestry graduate began his career in forest disease control in 1946. From the start, Bingham and others saw the potential of blister rust control through genetic selection.

Genetics work in the 1950's showed that some western white pines were resistant to blister rust; that resistance could be transmitted; and that breeding to produce rust-resistant planting stock was feasible.

The Bingham plantation now represents the payoff of more than 25 years of research. It will be thinned in about 16 years to improve growth conditions. Commercial-size trees will be removed about years 2004 and 2034. The final harvest will occur about 2054, and the area will be prepared for a new crop of fast-growing, disease-resistant trees. For Bingham, the plantation represents "on schedule" achievement of one step in a lengthy program that he displays on a chart featuring a clock which measures progress in years rather than minutes and hours.

Bingham retired in January as principal plant geneticist at the Intermountain Station's Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Moscow. But his timetable shows considerable seed orchard culture work remaining to be accomplished on the way to achieving a 1985 goal of providing enough rust-resistant seedlings to plant 15,000 acres per year. So he's kept right on working as an unsalaried Forest Service volunteer.

Thanks to one man's unwavering belief throughout a lifetime of work the western white pine, Idaho's state tree and a species highly valued as timber, has a new lease on life. The Richard T. "Dick" Bingham Plantation attests to it. □



Richard T. Bingham plants a genetically improved western white pine seedling at the 60-acre Bingham Plantation.

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Bonnie Kreidler, Editor.

Chinese Agriculture is Well-Documented at Beltsville

USDA's National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Md., has continuously received Chinese publications for nearly a century. Today the library maintains a Chinese collection of more than 25,000 volumes of books and serials in the biological and agricultural fields which is believed to be one of the largest of its kind in the world.

The collection also contains some of the important reports, working papers and other documents prepared by various technical missions and organizations, as well as reprints of some of the classical works on Chinese agriculture published several centuries ago. It comprises materials published in Mainland China before and after the Communist takeover and others published in Taiwan since 1949.

The importance of the NAL's Chinese collection to agricultural research is evidenced by the increasing number of scholars using it, both in the United States and abroad. There are several reasons for the increase. Like the United States, China is a large and varied country, extending across some 35 degrees of latitude and with extreme ranges in elevation, temperature, precipitation and soil. Consequently, many types of farming are practiced. Moreover, because of the large territory and wide variation in natural conditions, China has a great wealth of plant and animal materials. Many kinds and varieties of crops and livestock thrive and are used for food or other purposes. Finally, despite the present efforts to industrialize China, it is generally believed that agriculture will remain the mainstay of the country's economy for some time to come. The study of Chinese agriculture, therefore, is highly important for understanding her economic conditions as a whole.

If you are a scholar interested in analyzing Chinese agricultural data, however, come to NAL prepared to translate. A few important scientific

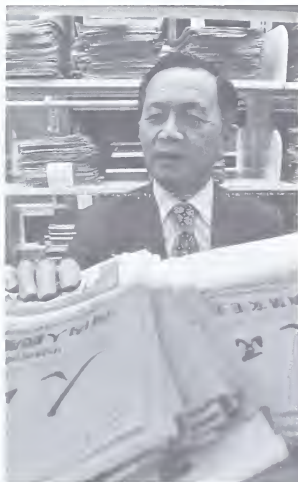
papers have been translated by the Department of Commerce's Joint Publications Research Service, but researchers must use most of the collection materials in Chinese.

Despite the lack of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China, the inflow of Chinese publications to this country via dealers in Hong Kong and other channels continued on a small scale and increased slowly but steadily during the early years of the Communist regime. Publishing activities in Mainland China, however, were badly affected by the adverse economic situation during the Great Leap Forward period in 1958-59 and were virtually suspended during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966-69. It was not until the early part of 1972 that some new publications began to appear, following the gradual improvement of political situation. The resumption of publishing activities, together with the normalization of Peking's relations with the United States and other countries, has motivated many libraries to expand their Chinese collections. For the past 2 years or so, new

books and periodicals published in Mainland China, including those on agriculture, have increasingly arrived in the United States. It is expected that more Chinese publications will come at an accelerating rate as a result of the visit to this country last October of a delegation of librarians from China. During this visit, the matter of promoting exchange of publications between the American and Chinese libraries was informally discussed.

In expanding the Chinese collection, NAL maintains close cooperation with many other institutions, including the Library of Congress, the Harvard-Yenching Library, the Hoover Institution, the Center for Chinese Research Materials of the Association of Research Libraries, the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, and the Committee on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), of which NAL is an active member. Discussions are frequently held for the improvement of acquisition, cataloging, and the development of bibliographic access to the Chinese materials.

The Chinese collection at NAL is under the direction of Dr. Leslie T.C. Kuo, an agricultural economist by training, who has written *The Technical Transformation of Agriculture in Communist China* (Praeger, 1972) and many articles on Chinese agriculture. Under his supervision, several bibliographies on Chinese, Japanese and Korean agriculture have been prepared by the Library. □



NAL's Chinese collection is under the direction of Dr. Leslie Kuo, a native of Mainland China who came to the United States as a graduate student in 1938. Kuo joined the NAL staff in 1960.

News

States profit from National Forest use □ Thirty-nine states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will divide up a record amount of almost \$118 million this year. Its their share of over \$470 million received by the Forest Service in fiscal 1974 from the many uses of the National Forest System lands.

The money returned to the states represents 25 percent of the receipts from grazing, recreation, minerals and other land-use charges as well as from the sale of timber from the 155 National Forests across the country. By law, the money must be used for public schools and public roads.

Fourth rural leaders school □ A six-day session of the National Rural Development Leaders School has been scheduled on Nov. 17-23 near Scranton, Pa., for participants from 13 northeast states.

The schools are open to rural community leaders who desire technical background and formal training in the process of rural development.

Persons who wish to attend one of the schools should contact their State Rural Development Committee through a local USDA office, write the USDA Rural Development Service, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 447-2573 for more information.

USDA and EPA will cooperate in ag environment efforts □ USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency have signed a memorandum of understanding providing a general basis for working relationships.

Recognizing that their respective programs have an impact upon one another, USDA and EPA have agreed to coordinate their agricultural environment activities and to encourage information exchange at all organizational levels.

To implement the specific agreements in the memorandum, the two agencies each plan to establish an Agricultural Environmental Coordinating Committee composed of representatives of interested offices within each agency. These committees will spearhead the interagency cooperation and will meet at least once every 6 months.

The USDA agencies with programs related to environmental quality include: Agricultural Marketing Service, Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Cooperative State Research Service, Economic Research Service, Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, Rural Development Service and Soil Conservation Service.

Mining regulations for national forests are in effect □ Regulations to protect the environment during mining and prospecting operations for such metals as gold, copper and lead on National Forest lands went into effect Sept. 1.

The regulations apply to the 140 million acres of National Forest lands. The regulations require that under certain conditions miners and prospectors give the Forest Service advance "notice of intent" that they plan operations on National Forest lands. If the FS determines that the operations will significantly disturb surface resources, the operator will have to submit a plan showing how he expects to conduct the mining or prospecting to the FS for

approval. Any operator required to file a plan of operation shall also furnish a bond commensurate with the expected cost of rehabilitating the area after prospecting or mining.

Moon trees for New Orleans □ Remember those tree seeds that went to the moon and back with Astronaut Stuart Roosa aboard Apollo XIV?

Well, some of the trees that grew from them were recently presented to the city of New Orleans for planting in Louis Armstrong Memorial Park on the edge of the historic Vieux Carre.

The seedlings had been in the care of Forest Service researchers at the FS Gulfport laboratory. They were taken to the laboratory following their return to NASA's Manned Space Center at Houston, Tex., after the Apollo XIV flight early in 1971. Five species were represented in the approximately 100 trees brought to the city from Gulfport.

Farm population is stabilizing □ The U.S. farm population declined only 0.8 percent a year from 1970 to 1973, contrasting sharply with 4.8 percent average annual declines in the 1960's.

Economic Research Service figures now show about 9.5 million people living on farms. Losses of farm population continue in the South and Northeast regions of the country while the West shows an increase. The North Central area showed little change in farm population.

Metals may limit fertilizer use of sewage sludge □ According to studies by USDA's Agricultural Research Service, fertilization of corn fields with sludge can increase yields from 10 bushels to 176 bushels an acre without application of fertilizer. But after 2 years of sludge use, USDA researchers warn, metals build up in soil, pollute waterways, and concentrate in plants. In soils treated with sludge for long periods, chromium and lead levels increased 7 to 8 times previous levels; copper, zinc and mercury increased 10 to 11 times; and cadmium levels went up as much as 30 times.

Convenience is not necessarily costly □ As you check over convenience foods at the grocery store, have you thought, "I could make it from scratch for half the price?" On some items, yes. On others, convenience foods may prove to be more economical than if you bought the fresh product and prepared it at home.

A survey conducted in early 1973 by USDA's Economic Research Service found that, on the average, 59 percent of the selected convenience foods had a serving per cost equal to or less than comparable food in fresh form prepared in the home.

Among vegetables, 7 in 10 ready-to-cook items had a lower cost per serving than their fresh counterparts. Frozen orange juice cost only one-third as much as the same serving of fresh orange juice and bottled lemon juice cost one-fifth as much as fresh juice. Of baked goods, 75 percent of the convenience products had higher costs than home prepared. Slightly over half the pork, beef, chicken, and turkey convenience foods were less expensive per serving, due in part to more efficient use by the processors of meat from a carcass.

... And speaking of convenience □ If you think it's a hassle to do the family's weekly food shopping at the supermarket, consider this: under new regulations, families receiving food stamps in remote areas of Alaska can now use food coupons to purchase certain hunting and fishing equipment for procuring food.

A good egg makes the grade □ It's not "eggsactly" the stuff Oscars are made of but that little old omelet maker, the egg, is the subject of a new USDA movie. The 12-minute presentation, designed for use by home economists, consumer groups, and educators, provides information on egg grades and sizes. It explains what the

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USDA grade on a carton of eggs means, how differences in egg quality are determined, and the role federal-state graders play in assuring top quality eggs in the market-place. The 16mm color film, produced by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, is the story of modern egg production and marketing. *Egg Grades—A Matter of Quality* is available for sale from Motion Picture Service, USDA, Office of Communication, Washington, D.C. 20250. Prints are \$67 each. The film can also be borrowed from Cooperative Extension Service Libraries at Land Grant Colleges in the 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Beating an Egg Problem □ Reduced environmental pollution and a high protein supplement for livestock feeds are two possible advantages of a new experimental treatment for wastewater from egg processing plants, a USDA scientist says.

Wastewater from both egg grading and breaking plants commonly has a high biological oxygen demand (BOD) and is difficult to treat by conventional means. These wastewaters can overload small municipal treatment plants.

Dr. William A. Moats, a chemist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, Md., says that egg solids can be precipitated from wastewater by increasing its acidity and heating it.

Dr. Moats' egg solid precipitate can be removed easily by centrifugation, reducing wastewater as much as 90 percent. The precipitated egg solids are high in protein and fats, thus a potentially valuable source of these nutrients for livestock feeds.

Dr. Moats says the combination of heat and acid used to treat wastewater is also more than adequate to kill any *Salmonella* or other harmful bacteria present.

Too Much Soy Is a No-No □ Adding too much textured soy protein to ground beef to stretch meat dollars will affect the flavor of the ground beef, USDA scientists say.

Dr. Anthony W. Kotula, a food technologist with the Agricultural Research Service says that adding as much as 20 percent of the soy protein won't measurably affect the palatability of the hamburgers, but beyond this point (without adding condiments) there is a noticeable taste difference.

Commercial textured soy protein, however, can sometimes be added at a greater rate, he said, since it contains spices which mask the soybean flavor.

Dr. Kotula reported on cooperative soy proteins research between ARS and the University of Maryland, College Park, at a recent meeting of the American Society of Animal Science.

People

Now That's the Kind of Business Trip I'd Like to Take

□ *The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture was the first in camp to rise, thanks to an ornery air mattress that wouldn't hold air, and the fact that his inner clock was still operating on Washington, D.C., time.*

So Robert W. Long got up, added wood to the embers from the evening campfire, heated a cup of leftover coffee, and watched the warm glow of day's first light spread over the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness.

Long (below center) Assistant Secretary for conversation, research, and education took a 12-mile August weekend hike through the southwest corner of the wilderness area. He went with Forest Service Associate Chief Rex Resler (left) and local FS personnel including Al Sorseth (right). A great deal of along-the-trail and in camp discussion was devoted to the ironies and challenges of Wilderness management and protection. The very designation of wilderness attracts hordes of visitors who, unintentionally, combine to threaten the very qualities that make the wilderness so special.

Long recognized the need to disperse wilderness visitors away from heavily used areas. He suggested that doing a better job of educating the public on what each wilderness has to offer might be one way of achieving greater dispersal.

"I don't like the idea of trying to tell people what kind of wilderness experience they're supposed to have, but let's give them some general idea of what all the potentials are," he advised.



Story and photo by Jim Hughes



Director of Public Affairs □

Steve Laine, formerly with the International Food Service Manufacturers Assn., Chicago, as director of marketing and educational services is now on the job as Director of Public Affairs for USDA.

FmHA chooses farm family of the year

□ Julian V. and Roberta Fowler of Delta Junction, Alaska, were recently selected the National Farm Family of the Year in the annual competition conducted for family-farmer borrowers of Farmers Home Administration, USDA's rural credit service.

Comments

This is a fan letter for USDA.

We boondocks field units often get questions from the public about FS USDA activities completely outside our sphere. Thanks to several articles in *USDA* (most recently "Timber for 2000" in 7/10 issue), we can make decently informed responses rather than the "duhhh" which, essentially, would have had to be our response without USDA's informative articles.

It is extremely helpful to have at least the specific name of another agency to suggest for inquiries, rather than simply saying we never heard of whatever, to people who have mistakenly traveled (often some distance) to inquire of us.

The "between agency" USDA interworkings that USDA recounts are things we should be current on, but which seem rarely to be disseminated to in-the-field units, so much thanks for handling the chore. Please keep educating us about the USDA—we can definitely use it.

M.C.
FS, Placerville, Calif.

Person to Person



Student Takes Over FNS □ "I never paid much attention to government before. But now, when I hear words like 'legislature' on the radio, I really listen."

So said Lucie Beauchemin of Manchester, N.H., after exploring the operations of the Federal Government for a week in July. Lucie and 97 other high school junior girls attended the American Legion Auxiliary's annual Girls Nation program in Washington, D.C.

The girls set up their own government patterned after the Federal system they observed. Divided into Nationalist and Federalist parties, they held legislative sessions, submitted and voted on bills, met their real-life counterparts from their home states, and elected a president and vice president.

Then, the "president" assigned each girl a role in the "new administration." Lucie became the Administrator of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. When she visited the agency to "take over," she was greeted by acting administrator, James E. Springfield, who explained FNS's responsibilities. The two discussed some of the day-to-

day challenges that crop up in administering the agency's many nationwide programs.

Lucie was already acquainted with FNS's National School Lunch Program since it operates in her school, Manchester West High School. Her senior year should be even more interesting, says Lucie thanks to her summer experiences. "I signed up for courses without knowing I'd be going to Girls State and Girls Nation," Lucie said. "But now I'm really excited that I'll be studying the government and the Constitution." Her overall reaction to Girls Nation? "It's fantastic!"



Students Spend Busy Summer as Statisticians □ These young people (left to right)—**Top Row:** Kathy Zoch, Southwest Texas State University; Alton Porter, Sam Houston State University; John Poesch, Texas A&M University; **Bottom Row:** Raul Guajardo, Texas A&I; Dee Ann Davis, Abilene Christian College; and Stacy Koeniger, McCallum High School, Austin—spent the summer of '74 working in the Statistical Reporting Service's Texas State Office.

Even though some of the trainees often worked as much as 12 hours a day, they still had as much enthusiasm as when they started in mid-May. In learning how SRS makes its crop and livestock estimates, their duties varied: sorting questionnaires, editing, telephoning, assisting with surveys and making state and county estimates.



Summer opportunity with ARS □ Six students spent their summer at the Agricultural Research Service's Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Ill., learning about research techniques and contributing to ARS's



efforts. Gladys McFadden (above left) prepared microbiological media for the growth of molds which contained viruses. James Harvey (above right) calculated total nitrogen in fermented corn-feedlot waste samples. Others who spent their summers at NRRL included Wanda Thomas, Donna Marrs, Cathy McBride, and Larry Higgins.

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to the outside world could serve as catalyst to industrial development, more jobs, and expanded housing.

Rural Telephony

Rings In

Rural Progress

Nearly 800 residents of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in western North Dakota will soon receive telephone service for the first time. Underground cable, storm-proofed to assure uninterrupted service despite a temperature range of 150 degrees and frequent harsh blizzards, will provide private line service to these Indian families. Moreover, this vital link

Service to this reservation was made possible through a recent loan from the Rural Electrification Administration to one of nearly 900 telephone cooperatives and companies located in 46 states which serve the communications needs of 2.8 million rural subscribers. It will enable the cooperative to hurdle in one leap the telephone technology of a quarter of a century, dramatizing the remarkable achievements of the Rural Electrification Administration within the past 25 years.

On October 28, 1974, the RFA observed the silver anniversary of its telephone loan program, authorized by Congress in 1949 to "assure the availability of

adequate telephone service to the widest practicable number of rural users of such service."

In the early days, the obstacles in meeting these objectives were formidable. Rural telephone service left much to be desired. Operators of magneto systems struggled to give some sort of service even though years of neglect had left many lines running from fence posts to dead trees, with fence wire itself sometimes used to carry signals. At that time the crank phone and "central" were commonplace. If you shouted loud enough and long enough you could usually complete a conversation. After the depression of the 30's there was little money to improve these inadequate systems, and the scarcities accompanying World War II restricted construction.



Telephone cable for modern rural systems can now be fed through a plow blade directly into the ground, leaving the countryside virtually undisturbed, and insuring reliable service.

But in the past the urgent need to communicate often went to great lengths. Here, evidence that some farmers talked through their own barbed wire!

REA's achievement of the past 25 years, however, exceed the most optimistic expectations of those who looked forward to this program's beginnings back in the 40's. In two and one-half decades, rural telephony has progressed from an antiquated, often unreliable service for a little better than a third of our Nation's farm families, to a highly specialized modern industry equipped to serve the total communications needs of rural America. Today, 86 percent of the Nation's farms have telephone service and about 98 percent of it is dial. REA has loaned more than \$2.5 billion to help rural residents enjoy the same good service as their cousins in the city.

In addition to its vitally needed growth capital, the REA program brought a sense of organization to rural telephony and became a vehicle for the introduction of new ideas and techniques.

REA specifications for the design of telephone equipment are now recognized as standards throughout the industry, and construction techniques pioneered by REA helped keep costs of telephone service down for all rural people. Progress has been marked by close, mutually beneficial working relationships by REA with the telephone industry and telephone equipment manufacturers.

Today, REA and the telephone systems it finances are moving into the new era of electronics, with totally new concepts of design. Efforts are underway to

implement engineering processes, training programs, and other activities that could reduce the cost of communications equipment by as much as one-third below the present cost of conventionally designed plant.

For the first time in many years, more people are moving to rural America than are moving away. Conveniences and comforts formerly found only in metropolitan areas are now found throughout the countryside.

Accompanying this expansion is the demand for better grades and quality of telephone service. Multi-party service no longer satisfies the needs of businessmen or residential subscribers. Service outages and low-grade transmission—once accepted as part of rural telephony—are no longer tolerated.

Keeping pace with the rapid growth and higher standards in rural America has strained the capabilities of rural telephone systems. As a consequence, in 1971 the Rural Electrification Act was amended to provide for the establishment of a Rural Telephone Bank to provide supplemental financing for telephone systems. Ownership of the bank is shared by the Federal Government with the bank's borrowers. The loans bear interest at the bank's cost of money rate.

REA's impact on rural living goes far beyond dollars loaned to rural telephone and electric systems. REA borrowers have always been natural developers of rural areas through the very presence of these utility services. Developing the economic potential of these areas continues to be an important part of REA borrower activity. In addition to providing greater use of telephone facilities, development projects are often successful in creating jobs and improving public facilities and services.

The program's greatest accomplishment, however, has been to show that rural people needed—and were willing to pay for—good telephone service. It demonstrates what can be done when rural people work with their Government in carrying out their shared responsibility of service to the community. □

Story by Esther Murow, REA

◀ This hopelessly tangled skein of wires entered the building housing Gonzales, Louisiana's old manual switchboard, until REA financing helped the East Ascension Telephone Company replace the system with dial.



News

Now you can "Dial-A-Regulation" □ *The Federal Register* has gone the route of the weatherman and your friendly local timekeeper. Each day, a tape recording is made of the principal regulation changes that will be published in the *Federal Register* the next day. Those interested can phone in to see what the Feds are up to.

The service was begun to make the *Register* more useful. The new *Federal Register* phone number is (202) 523-5022.

USDA'S 1974 chartbook depicts agricultural scene □ *The 1974 Handbook of Agricultural Charts* is a handy reference book, containing 195 charts—many with supporting tables—covering the general economy, farm commodity trends, foreign agricultural trade, population and rural development, food aid programs, and family economics. A new addition in this annual handbook is the food and nutrition section, which focuses on school lunch and food stamp programs.

The chartbook is the combined effort of five USDA agencies: Economic Research Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Agricultural Research Service, Statistical Reporting Service, and Food and Nutrition Service.

Single copies of the 1974 *Handbook of Agricultural Charts*, AH-477, may be obtained from Division of Information, USDA Economic Research Service, Washington, D.C. 20250.

For those interested in using the handbook charts for classroom or conference presentations, USDA offers a 195-frame color slide set for \$30.00. If individual charts are needed, single slides are available for 30¢ each. Black and white prints are also available, at a cost of \$2.70 for any size up to 8" x 10".

All prints and color slides may be ordered from the Photography Division, Office of Communication, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FmHA training center begins third year □ The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Training Center on the Oklahoma University campus at Norman, Okla., recently began its third year of training for FmHA employees.

Since the Center opened its doors on Oct. 1, 1972, nearly 4,000 training experiences have been provided.

The FmHA Training Center began with one classroom in 1972, offering intensive one-week training courses in

the agency's credit programs. Since then, course offerings have been expanded to include a well-rounded training and development effort for FmHA employees. Supervision, management, regulations, clerical skills, and office management are among course subjects intended to raise the skills of FmHA personnel.

The facilities, located in Walker Memorial Tower at the University of Oklahoma, now include three classrooms, and dormitory facilities for 75 students.

USDA steps up airport inspection to protect animals □ Inspections at key airports are being increased fourfold to look for sick and injured animals protected under the Animal Welfare Act.

Last year, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) began inspecting air shipments at key midwestern and eastern seacoast transit points handling protected animals. Most of the shipments consisted of dogs; other animals seen in volume were monkeys, cats, hamsters and guinea pigs intended for sale as pets or for use in laboratory research.

Officials uncovered a number of animals with severe parasite infestations or contagious diseases. They also found instances of overcrowding and unsuitable containers.

To find and stop the abuses, inspections will be increased from about one day per month to about one day per week, according to APHIS Administrator *Dr. Francis J. Mulhern*. He explained that while air carriers themselves are not subject to the Animal Welfare Act, dealers shipping animals have to be licensed. Minimum standards they must follow cover proper housing, shelter, ventilation, sanitation, use of trained employees, feeding, watering, veterinary care, handling, separation of incompatible animals, and shipping containers.

Animal dealers involved in violating these standards can be prosecuted through legal and administrative channels. Depending on the offense, maximum penalties are 1 year in prison, fines of \$1,000 and/or suspension or revocation of the dealer's license.

Polyvinylchlorides made with starch □ Corn starch can be used to make new plastics, reducing pollution-littering problems, conserving scarce petroleum-derived raw materials, and cutting industry costs.

Degradable plastics have been made at the ARS Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Ill., by adding cornstarch to standard formulas for polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), widely used synthetics.

Most plastics do not decompose easily. They accumulate in disposal dumps and litter other areas. Some release toxic compounds when burned.

The new ARS plastics, however, are more degradable than plastics made entirely of petroleum-based resins. The starch—classified as a biodegradable agent—in the new formulas can be attacked by biological agents, thus aiding in the breakdown of the total product.

Although the plastic has been produced in the laboratory, no products have been made from them as of yet. Scientists envision that starch-PVC could be formed into trays, eating utensils, packaging materials, and other disposable items.

There are more top farms □ Booming prices and big marketings pushed many a U.S. farm into a higher farm sales bracket in 1973.

At the top, there was a whopping 56 percent hike in the number of farms with farm sales in the \$100,000-plus sales category—plus a 52-percent increase in numbers in the \$40,000-99,999 sales bracket.

Farms in these top two income groups now represent 16 percent of the U.S. total, account for about 70 percent of the cash receipts from farming, and receive 60 percent of the realized net farm income.

This represented spectacular growth since the early 1960's.

In 1972 the top two sales classes comprised only 10 percent of all farm numbers and accounted for 61 percent of cash receipts and 45 percent of realized net farm income.

At the start of the 1960's, farms selling upwards of \$40,000 worth of farm products made up less than 3 percent of the farm total, accounted for 33 percent of the cash receipts, and received under 18 percent of realized net farm income.

Maryland scientists to computerize pesticide data □ Scientists at the University of Maryland will compile and analyze pesticide data under terms of a cooperative agreement with USDA.

The purpose of this study is to compile the information on pesticide efficacy and toxicology so that it can be stored and readily retrieved for use on demand.

The Maryland scientists will record the chemical, toxicological, and biological data from a series of aircraft disinsectization trials conducted jointly by USDA, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and Department of Defense scientists. They will also search appropriate literature and other information supplied by Agricultural Research Service to supplement the data.

This is a fishy farm story □ Although still a comparatively new type of agriculture, "aquaculture" now covers an acreage equal to half of the acres devoted to farming in Delaware. A Soil Conservation Service summary of fish farming activity in the United States reveals that there were 2,372 commercial catfish enterprises covering 259,128 acres as of April 15 of this year. There were 935 trout farms with 4,214 acres of trout; 853 minnow farms with 48,899 acres of commercial minnow production; and 564 other fish farms with 31,045 acres in 34 other kinds of fish. About 3,740 enterprises offer fishing recreation.

Cattle gain on wood pulp □ The wastes from paper mills may provide food energy for cattle in the future, says USDA animal nutritionist *Dr. David A. Dinius*.

Dinius and *Dr. James Bond* of USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Md., found that cattle grow well and gain weight rapidly on diets consisting of up to 75 percent pulp fines—the tiny wood fibers which sift through the screens used in making paper. An estimated 1.7 million tons of wood pulp and papermaking fiber residues are produced annually in the United States. These waste products are now burned or used as landfill.

Clip along dotted line and
place over light switch.

**LAST OUT,
LIGHTS OUT.**

**Don't be
fuelish.**

People

New head gardner □ *Dr. H. Mark Cathey*, Chief of the Agricultural Research Service's ornamentals laboratory at Beltsville, Md., was recently elected president of the American Horticultural Association.

Paperwork award □ *Ralph Marceron* with the Agricultural Marketing Service in Washington, D.C., was one of 41 Federal employees to win the 10th Annual Federal Paperwork Management Awards sponsored by the Association of Records Executives and Administrators and the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration. Marceron was among the top seven winners who received certificates and plaques for distinguished achievement.

Italian attaché □ *Elmer W. Hallowell* was recently appointed agricultural attaché on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy. He replaces *Radboud L. Beukenkamp*, who has been reassigned.

Belgian attaché □ *Roger S. Euler* was recently appointed agricultural attaché on the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. He replaces *Quentin Bates*, who recently retired.

Smokey's caretaker recognized □ The advertising Council of America recently gave its Silver Bell Award to *Mal Hardy* of the Forest Service for his efforts on behalf of the Smokey Bear campaign run by the FS and the Advertising Council. Hardy has headed the Smokey Bear fire fighting campaign for the last 14 years. □

During a fee compliance check, Recreation Technician Joe Garcia (right) chats with a New Yorker who, with his wife, visited Redondo Campground on the Jemez District.

Person to Person

Recreation Technician *Joe M. Garcia* might be called the mayor of Redondo Campground—and a dozen other camp and picnic areas within the Jemez District of the Santa Fe National Forest.

For most of his 15 Forest Service years Garcia has made daily rounds of his recreation areas where one moment he's a policeman, the next a referee, or a teacher, revenue collector, fireman, superintendent of utilities, maintenance man or sanitation worker. And, to complicate matters, the population of Garcia's "municipality" changes almost daily.

The bed of Joe's Forest Service pickup carries an assortment of tools and supplies with which he repairs, maintains and replenishes as he goes. There are chemicals for the water systems, new signs for the bulletin boards, toilet paper for the restrooms, paints for touching up signs and buildings. If he encounters a job he's unprepared for, he makes sure the right tools and materials are aboard next time around.

All along the way there are bits and pieces of litter which Garcia gathers up and deposits in trash cans. He wants his campgrounds as neat as his attractive home in nearby Ponderosa. "You should see them after a weekend," sighs Garcia. The big cleanup jobs are taken care of by a special crew.

There is vandalism; the boards ripped from a shelter for firewood, the water

hydrant pulled from the ground. It's up to Garcia to make the repairs.

And then there are the problems that appear where people congregate. On one day's rounds, an Albuquerque man sought out Garcia to complain that an area reserved for his group was being used by others. Another camper complained about a group of unsupervised boys. A group of young men had to be admonished for building a campfire away from the fireplace provided. At Redondo Campground, where a camping fee is charged, Garcia visits each group to make sure all have paid.

"It's all part of the job that must be done," said Joe. In doing his job he has become one of the best known and most popular Forest Service employees in New Mexico. "Hi, Joe," shouts one camping family after another, people Joe may have met the day before or a year ago.

Garcia's favorite campers are the occasional caravans of trailer-pulling retired people. "They are outstanding," he said. "Always clean and considerate. I find most people want to do the right thing. If they don't it's because they don't know how and they appreciate it when I show them."

His success with people creates one of Garcia's problems—too little time. He moves about his duties in what appears an unhurried manner but he is always pressed for time. "People like to talk. They have questions about everything so I take the time to talk to them. It makes people comfortable," Garcia said.

"I treat everyone the same—well," Garcia said, "and they react by being helpful and friendly." □



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Bonnie Kreidler, Editor.

DEC 24 1974

The World Food Situation

CUT. 1/11/75

Blame It On the Weatherman

Weather-stricken crops in major producing areas have dashed hopes for a record global harvest this year, leaving the world to cope with restricted food supplies and higher prices.

Preliminary data from the 1973/74 crop year and projected figures for 1974/75 point to an increasingly tight world grain market in the next 6-8 months.

Economists expect that setbacks in wheat and coarse grain crop production, along with rice, will pull total world grain output down to 1,125 million metric tons in 1974/75—a drop of 37 million tons, or 3 percent, from last year's record crop.

However world demand, spurred by rising incomes and population growth, is expected to exceed overall grain production for the third straight year. The smaller supplies will put even more pressure on dwindling world grain stocks this year in a number of exporting countries and in nations particularly hard hit by floods and droughts.

Wheat, rice, and coarse grain stocks could well be drawn down below last year's 20-year low. As recently as 1969/70-1971/72, the four major grain

exporters held carryover stocks of about 100 million tons. Their recent draw-down rates, which have been faster than in the rest of the world, are expected to leave the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Argentina with grain stocks of only 31.5 million tons at year's end.

Bad weather in the two largest grain exporters—the U.S. and Canada—as well as in parts of South Asia and China, has been largely responsible for the world's gloomy crop outlook this year.

Grain crops haven't been the only victims of poor weather. Preliminary estimates indicate that world meal and oil production will also be down in 1975—largely due to the drought-wilted and frostbitten outlook for the U.S. soybean crop.

Despite an anticipated boost in output from other major producers, world prices for oilseeds and oilmeal products rose sharply when bad weather withered U.S. crop prospects—a reflection of the dominant role U.S. soybeans play in the world market.

All in all, tight supply-demand conditions will likely continue in the world meal and oil market in the coming year.

In contrast, commercial meat production is on the rise again this year, reversing the sharp drop in 1973. Meat prices are stabilizing below earlier peaks, but higher retail prices, slower economic growth, and inflation have restrained consumer demand. In the past year, livestock and poultry prices in developed countries have dropped significantly from 1973's high levels.

Concern for livestock producers caught in the squeeze between lower prices and higher feed costs has prompted many governments to encourage exports and delays in slaughtering, while imposing import restrictions and purchasing domestic meat supplies to support prices.

A totally different picture emerged for world fertilizer supplies last year.



Harvests of rice, the staple diet of billions of people on the Asian subcontinent, were disappointing this year.

Unusual scarcity dominated the market for nitrogen and phosphate, and prices of some fertilizers soared as much as 200-300 percent as production capacity strained to keep pace with rapidly mounting demand.

Stimulated by record grain prices, much of the increased demand for fertilizer came from North America, the Soviet Union, and to some extent, from developing countries. However, high prices and limited foreign exchange reserves have forced many less developed nations to cut back from their previous boosts in fertilizer use.

Although the global agricultural outlook has dimmed considerably since spring, input shortages and bad weather in key areas have tended to overshadow the more favorable growing conditions that prevailed in many regions in 1974.

For example, rainfall brought relief and the promise of increased production to the drought-stricken African Sahel; Latin America's output is likely to exceed last year's record; and several Asian countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan, are showing substantial crop gains over previous years.

One of the bright spots in Africa's agricultural outlook this year is South Africa's record corn crop. Particularly good weather prevailed from planting time through harvest, in contrast to the previous year, when a severe drought depressed output.

Several developed countries are also expecting a reasonably bountiful harvest. In Western Europe, grain production overcame a dry spring and damaging summer rains to rise nearly 4 million tons over last year, and Eastern Europe's grain output appears close to the record crops of the past 2 years. □

News

Not much good news for consumers in the feed outlook □ USDA's Outlook and Situation Board estimates that feed grain supplies for 1974-75 will be down more than a fifth from last season. Old crop carry-over was lowest since 1952 as a result of heavy feed grain disappearance during the last 2 years. And 1974 corn production will be 18% below last year. The grain sorghum crop is down more than a third from 1973. Consequently, feed grain supplies total around 187 million tons, the least since 1957-58, when U.S. inventories of livestock were

smaller and foreign demand for U.S. feed grains was less.

Farmers had planted more acres to corn in 1974 than in any year since 1960, encouraged by good price prospects and no acreage set-aside requirements. Under normal weather conditions this much acreage would have produced an all time record harvest. But weather was abnormal. Earlier planted corn and sorghum were substantially damaged by a severe drought in July. Unusually wet weather in much of the Eastern Corn Belt kept farmers out of their fields during mid-May to mid-June—the tail end of the planting season. This led to later than normal plantings that were hard hit by earlier than usual frosts in September and October.

Feed costs for livestock, poultry, and dairy enterprises are high in relation to what producers have been able to get for their products. As a result, many producers are reducing the size of their operations, curtailing output of grain-fed livestock and poultry products. This will show up at the retail level first in poultry and pork. Fed beef production is smaller than a year ago, but there has been a sharp increase in slaughter of cattle directly off grass and total beef production is larger than last year.

In the first half of 1975, production of fed beef will continue at a reduced level because of current low levels of placements in feedlots, but slaughter of cattle off grass will be larger. Pork, poultry, and milk production will be smaller this winter and next spring.

In the face of diminishing world stock levels, foreign demand for U.S. feed grains is strong. But the limited U.S. supply has been called to the attention of foreign buyers and they have been asked to limit their purchases accordingly. Co-operation is asked of U.S. exporters to get advance approval from USDA for foreign sales above specified volumes. USDA estimates that 1974-75 feed grain exports will be down to 30-32 million short tons from 44.4 million in 1973/74.

Eating out took 29 cents of each \$1 spent for food in 1973 □ Is a good home-cooked meal a thing of the past? Not quite. But it's a fact we're spending an ever-growing share of our food dollar in away-from-home eating places.

Of each dollar consumers laid out for U.S. farm foods in 1973, 29 cents went to public eating places and institutions, up from 24 cents 10 years ago.

Public eating places include restaurants, cafeterias, snack bars, and other eating places operated mainly for profit. Altogether, they accounted for about three-fourths of the away-from-home market.

Institutions—including schools, colleges, hospitals, rest and nursing homes, and airlines served the rest of the away-from-home-meals in 1973. Until

recently institutional sales were growing faster than public eating places. But decreased school enrollment and a decline in hospital patients over the past 3 years have slowed the growth.

Flying in the face of inflation □ A cut-back in sterile screwworm fly production at the Mission, Tex., production plant was announced recently by USDA as part of an effort to stay within budget limitations.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service says production will be reduced from the present level of over 200 million sterile flies per week. As a result of the production cut-back, over 280 Mission personnel are being furloughed in shifts.

Screwworms—the larval form of the screwworm fly—feed on the wounds of warm-blooded animals. The female fly lays her eggs on the edges of the wound and the emerging larvae burrow into the wound and feed on the living flesh. Heavy infestations weaken affected animals and, if untreated, may end in death.

Screwworm eradication is accomplished by releasing millions of artificially raised and sexually sterilized screwworm flies to mate with native fertile flies. Eggs produced by such matings do not hatch. Since the female screwworm fly usually mates once in her lifetime, increased sterile matings reduce the native population and screwworms are eventually eliminated.

Iowa moves to top spot among farm marketers □ After reigning for 25 years as the Nation's top earner of farm cash receipts, California was nosed out by Iowa in 1973.

Iowa won with receipts of almost \$7.4 billion for the 25 leading commodities, compared with California's total of slightly over \$7.2 billion. Texas again came in third with \$6.5 billion.

Iowa also headed the list in livestock marketings, at \$4.2 billion, followed by Texas (\$3.7 billion) and California (\$2.7 billion). California, however, finished first in value of crop marketings—\$4.5 billion. Next were Illinois (\$3.4 billion) and Iowa (\$3.2 billion).

Farmers didn't pocket last year's income gain □ The U.S. farmer earned more money than ever in 1973, but he wound up with no more cash than usual in his pocket.

The agricultural balance sheet shows that although farming's realized net income almost doubled last year, farmers retained the same amount of cash in 1973 as in 1972—a total of \$2.2 billion.

Also, total liquid assets of farmers—currency holdings, bank deposits, and U.S. savings bonds—generally did not keep up with growth in net income. Liquid assets hit a record \$18.9 billion last year but the gain

from 1973 was only \$0.9 billion versus \$1.2 billion during 1972.

One explanation may be the unusually large cash purchases of farm equipment in 1973. Farmers evidently preferred to avoid high interest rates by using more of their own money rather than borrowing.

Sales of used equipment, which don't require as much credit financing as new sales, were exceptionally heavy.

Other high cash outlays may have been brought about by larger than usual downpayments on purchases of farms, and by cash payments for such inputs as fertilizer and fuel.

Real estate leads record rise in farm assets □ Spurred by a 25-percent jump in farm real estate value, the value of farm assets posted a record \$92-billion gain from 1973 to the start of this year.

On January 1, 1974, farm assets were up 24 percent from a year earlier. This increase was almost double the 13-percent rise in 1972 and 3 times the growth rate in 1971.

More than two-thirds of the increase in total assets was due to the record-setting rise in real estate value. Average farmland values jumped from \$247 per acre at the beginning of 1973 to \$310 at the start of 1974. This increase was more than the total gain in real estate value for the years 1969-72 combined.

Economists attributed the boost mainly to unusually high commodity prices and record high net farm income last year, as well as to buyer optimism over the long-term outlook for farm income. In addition, some investors apparently shifted funds into farm real estate as a hedge against the rapid rate of inflation in the general economy.

Winter heats up Mexico-Florida vegetable rivalry □ For most farmers the coming of winter signals colder weather and overcoats. But for Florida vegetable growers, winter means the heating up of an old rivalry.

Our supplies of fresh vegetables during winter hinge on farming regions of

year-round warmth, and Florida and Mexico are hotly competitive in lulling those needs.

Though production in Florida is increasing about 5 percent a year, the U.S. has long relied on its Latin American neighbor for a substantial portion of its winter vegetables. Mexico has been sending its crops here since before World War I, and the pace of shipments is accelerating.

Mexico enjoys two particular advantages over its American rivals. First, its lower labor costs give Mexico a significant edge in the production of crops that require mostly hand harvesting.

Mexico's other advantage is its slightly warmer climate, which keeps crop losses to a minimum.

There are, however, some offsets to these advantages that will keep Florida in the running. For one, Mexico has to import many of the inputs used in the production and packing of vegetables. The costs of these items are up due to inflation in the exporting countries and rising transportation costs.

Mexico is also at a disadvantage because its rate of inflation is somewhat higher than in the U.S. Production costs are rising more rapidly for the Mexican producer.

Mexican producers have also been set back by a recent hike in the minimum wage, which was raised 14 percent to \$3.28 per day.

North Carolina provides Capitol Christmas tree

□ The Christmas tree for the U.S. Capitol grounds in Washington this year will come from North Carolina. A 41-foot Fraser fir from Roan Mountain in the Pisgah National Forest has been selected for display on the west lawn of the Capitol during the 1974 holiday season. The Office of the Architect of the Capitol will decorate the tree.

This is the fifth consecutive year the National Forests have provided a Christmas tree for the U.S. Capitol. Previous trees have come from the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania, the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, and the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire.

It's poster contest time again □ The Smokey Bear and Woody Owl environmental poster contest sponsored annually by the National Council of State Garden Clubs in cooperation with the Forest Service is on again.

Youngsters from kindergarten through twelfth grade can compete in the free-hand poster contest. Participants need not be members of an affiliated Junior Garden Club to enter the contest and there are no contest fees.

State Junior Gardening Chairman must receive entries no later than January 5, 1975. If your child is

Bonds are for giving at Christmas.



interested, contact your local garden club or Forest Service office for complete contest rules and the name and address of your State Junior Gardening Chairman.

Want to know some local dirt? □ Knowing the kind of soil you're working with can save a lot of post-development headaches. Nine new USDA publications explain how soil surveys can serve as land management tools for a variety of land uses.

The color brochures were written by Soil Conservation Service to explain several of the uses of the soil survey. One brochure, *Soil Surveys Can Help You* (PA-1054), describes the many uses of soil surveys. Six others are directed to: farmers and ranchers (PA-1047); construction engineers (PA-1048); developers and builders (PA-1049); homebuyers (PA-1050); recreation area planners (PA-1053); and local, regional and state land use planners (PA-1055). The other two cover waste disposal problems (PA-1051) and appraising farmland (PA-1052).

Soil surveys contain detailed maps of a county's soil and interpretations of the data for a variety of land uses. Information is based on test borings to a depth of 5 feet. More than 50 percent of the United States, about 1.2 billion acres, has been surveyed. More than 800 soil survey reports have been published. In some areas not covered by a published soil survey, land users may obtain recorded data and information from a soil survey in progress.

Single copies of the brochures are available from the Information Division USDA Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Additional copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20404, at 25 cents a copy.

Food stamp allotments increased □ On January 1 the food stamp allotment for a family of four will increase from \$150 to \$154, based on August food price statistics. The Food Stamp Act, as amended by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-86), requires that coupon allotments be adjusted semiannually to reflect changes in the prices of food as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Person to Person

Who needs GSA and lots of forms?

Arne Koskela, Forest Service project foreman for the Camp Verde District, Prescott National Forest, saw a problem and applied his personal "do it yourself as cheaply as possible" philosophy.

A fence gate near the ranger station was frequently left open, allowing cattle to stray and become a menace to motorists. Arne found a solution illustrated in a FS range improvement handbook—a gate that could be easily opened and closed by someone on horseback.

Wouldn't you know it, though. The drawings gave no dimensions. But that didn't stop Arne. He identified one two-by-four and, using that, scaled the rest of the needed lumber. In his spare time he built a working model and then applied what he had learned to a real gate.

And it was cheap. During working hours, Koskela never passes up a scrap of lumber or any other material that could prove useful. So when the gate was built, "we only had to pay for four pieces of lumber," Arne recalls. "The rest came from stuff I had collected and stored around the ranger station. That's why some people call me the junk man." Koskela's knack for seeing gold in the junkpile has rubbed off on his co-workers. "Other people around the District have picked up my habit of collecting things that might be good for something," he says.

Could we call *Arne Koskela* a WINner?



▲
Arne Koskela, Camp Verde District, shows how his easy-open-and-close gate works. Before tackling the full-size gate, Arne built a working model (left).

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